NATION

RG Kar victim's parents say not upset with Shah

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BUSINESS

Commercial LPG up ₹62 per cylinder, ATF price hiked 3%

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SPORTS

India hand NZ control after a batting flop show on day 1

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SALAR

DIGITAL ENGLISH DAILY, BENGALURU

ساڈھ روزنامہ بنگلور

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40 injured in Bengaluru during Deepavali

BENGALURU, 1 NOV

Over 40 people sustained eye and burn injuries due to crackers during Deepavali in two days this year in the City, hospital authorities said on Friday. The government run Minto Ophthalmic Hospital reported six cases of eye injuries till 2pm on Friday and five among them were children. The Victoria Hospital reported four cases of burn injuries, they said. The city's Narayana Nethralaya said the hospital witnessed a significant increase in firecracker-induced eye injuries.
>>>More on Page 2

2 UP natives killed in J&K's 5th terror attack since 18 Oct

SRINAGAR, 1 NOV

Two people from Uttar Pradesh were shot at by militants in Jammu and Kashmir's Budgam on Friday, officials said. Sufiyan,20, and Usman, 25, were injured after being shot at in the Mazhama area of Magam in the central Kashmir district, they said. They were taken to a hospital and were stated to be in a stable condition, the officials added. This is the fifth attack by terrorists in the Kashmir Valley since the formation of an elected government headed by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah. On 24 October, two soldiers and two Army porters were killed while another porter and a soldier were injured in a militant attack on an Army vehicle six kilometres from the tourist hotspot Gulmarg.—*PTI*

ISRO's analogue space mission kicks off at Leh

BENGALURU, 1 NOV

ISRO on Friday said its analogue space mission has taken off at Leh in Ladakh, where it will simulate life in an interplanetary habitat as India prepares to send a human to the moon. The initiative is a collaborative effort of the Human Spaceflight Centre, ISRO, AAKA Space Studio, University of Ladakh, IIT Bombay, and supported by Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council. The month-long mission, kicked off mid-October, comes in the wake of India's plans to set up lunar habitats, which could provide a base to launch inter-planetary missions. —*PTI*
>>>More on Page 2

Adani cuts power supply to B'desh over pending dues

DHAKA, 1 NOV

India's Adani Power Jharkhand Limited (APJL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Adani Power, has stopped half of its power supply to Bangladesh because of outstanding bills of USD 846 million, according to a local media report on Friday. Data from Power Grid Bangladesh PLC showed the Adani plant reduced supply on Thursday, The Daily Star newspaper said. Bangladesh reported a shortfall of more than 1,600 megawatts (MW) on the intervening night of Thursday and Friday. Earlier, the Adani company wrote to the power secretary asking the Bangladesh Power Development Board (PDB) to clear its outstanding dues by 30 October. The newspaper quoted a official as saying that they had earlier cleared a portion of previous dues, but since July, Adani has been charging more than the previous months.—*PTI*

Delhi world's most polluted city as cracker ban defied

The capital city was covered by a thick smog with AQI at 330

NEW DELHI, 1 NOV

New Delhi was ranked the world's most polluted city on Friday as thick layer of haze blanketed the city, with the national capital's AQI plunging to 362 as people defied a citywide ban on firecrackers during Deepavali celebrations.

Delhi also recorded its most polluted Deepavali in three years.

On Thursday, the city's 24-hour average Air Quality Index (AQI) was recorded at 330, compared to 218 in 2023 and 312 in 2022, according to Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data.

The national capital's AQI was recorded in the 'very poor' category with a reading of 362 at 9 am on Friday.

Most monitoring stations in Delhi showed similar pollution levels, with 37 out of 39 reporting air quality in the 'very poor' category.

An AQI between zero and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor', 401 and 450 'severe' and above 450 'severe plus'.

The concentration of PM2.5—fine particles which easily penetrate the respiratory system and pose serious health risks, especially for children, the elderly and those with pre-existing respiratory conditions—also exceeded the safe limit.

At 6 am on Friday, the PM2.5 concentration in Delhi was recorded at 207.8 micrograms per cubic metre.

The safe limit for PM2.5 is 60 micrograms per cubic metre.

The Delhi government had enforced a comprehensive ban on firecrackers for the fifth consecutive year, prohibiting their manufacture, storage, sale and use. Despite this, there was large-scale flouting of the restrictions in neighbourhoods across Delhi. Last year, a decrease in stubble burning incidents in neighbouring states and favourable meteorological conditions, including rain, prevented the national capital from turning into a gas chamber after Deepavali. —*PTI*
>>>More on Page 4

> **Thanks to the responsible actions of many residents who avoided using firecrackers, we managed to avoid a severe AQI reading**
>
> -Gopal Rai, Delhi Environment Minister

LIGHT, LOVE AND JOY

Residents celebrate Deepavali with lights in Sonnenahalli, Bengaluru, on Friday *PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD*

WAR OF WORDS OVER TAX

CM asks Centre not to punish 'progressive' K'taka

BENGALURU, 1 NOV

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday underlined the need for justice in the devolution of taxes and asked the Centre not to punish Karnataka for being progressive.

He said no one should milk a milch cow completely, or else the calf would be malnourished.

Addressing people on the occasion of the 69th state formation day at Sri Kanteerava Stadium here, Siddaramaiah said there is injustice happening to Karnataka. The state is contributing more than Rs 4 lakh crore as revenue to the Centre and it is the second largest contributor to the Central tax revenue after Maharashtra, he pointed out.

"Even though we give more than Rs 4 lakh crore, we are only getting Rs 55,000 crore to Rs 60,000 crore. Kannadigas should know this. We are getting 14 to 15 per cent only of our contribution," HE said.

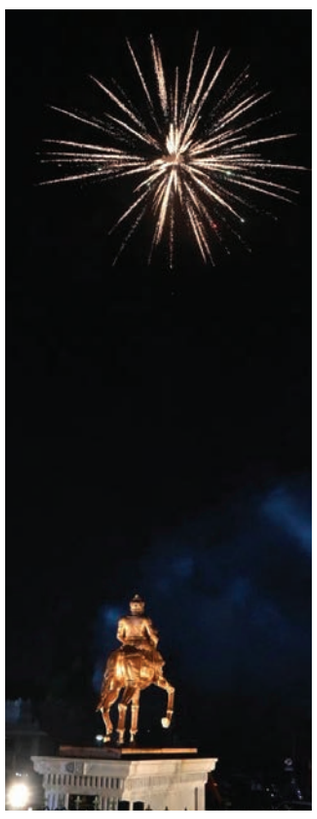
He emphasised taking pride in Kannada and bringing it in daily use as much as possible.

Stating that Karnataka has

CM Siddaramaiah at Sri Kanteerava Stadium on Rajyothsava Day

people speaking more than 200 languages, Siddaramaiah said, whatever language people speak here or whichever caste or religion they belong to, they all are Kannadigas. He said Kannada is a very old language with a history of 7,000 years. Hence, the Centre too recognised it as a classical language. "Our affection for our language should not be extreme, but we should never give up our pride for our language. We all should be Kannada lover," he added. "For Kannada to grow, people living here must become Kannadigas. I will never say not to learn any other language. Keep enhancing your linguistic s but never forget Kannada," he said. —*PTI* ***>>>More on Page 2***

> **There is a world of difference between the Union Government's debt and the debt you (Siddaramaiah) made in the State. The debt is increasing, and the size of the budget is increasing, but why is the capital expenditure not increasing at the same rate**
>
> —R Ashoka, BJP leader



Following the presentation of the Kannada Rajyothsava Award, firecrackers were set off at Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Friday *PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD*

PM flays Cong over 'unfulfilled' guarantees

NEW DELHI, 1 NOV

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said the Congress stands "badly exposed" in front of people for promising to them what the party knows it will never be able to deliver.

Modi's remark came days after Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar indicating about revisiting the 'Shakti' scheme, which provides free bus travel for all women domiciled in the state.

Modi launched a fierce attack on the Opposition party as he seized on its President Mallikarjun Kharge's comments that the Congress' state units should make promises that are properly budgeted. Kharge said the poll promises should not lead to financial troubles amid reports of fiscal problems the Congress-ruled states are facing in keeping some of their pre-poll announcements.

"Leaders shouldn't announce 5, 6, or 10 guarantees without considering the budget. Otherwise, they risk bankruptcy. If funds for infrastructure fall short, people will turn against them," he stated.

Meanwhile, Modi said the developmental trajectory and fiscal health in the Congress-ruled states of Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka and Telangana is turning from bad to worse.

Narendra Modi *PHOTO: PTI*

> In Karnataka, Congress is busier in intra-party politics and loot instead of even bothering to deliver on development. They are also going to roll back existing schemes, Modi said.

He said the "so-called guarantees" of the Congress lie unfulfilled, which is a "terrible deceit" upon the people of these states. Modi added that the victims of such politics are the poor, youngsters, farmers and women who are not only denied the benefits of these promises but also see their existing schemes diluted. In Karnataka, the Congress is busier in intra-party politics and loot instead of even bothering to deliver on development. Not only that, they are also going to roll back existing schemes, Modi said. —*PTI*

ARMY BEGINS PATROLLING IN LADAKH'S DEMCHOK

NEW DELHI, 1 NOV

The Indian Army began patrolling at Demchok on Friday, days after Indian and Chinese troops completed disengagement at the two friction points in eastern Ladakh, Army sources said.

Patrolling at Depsang is expected to resume shortly, they said.

Indian and Chinese troops exchanged sweets at several border points along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) on the occasion of Diwali.

The traditional practice was observed a day after both the countries completed troop disengagement at the two friction points, bringing a fresh thaw in Sino-Indian ties.

Patrolling has begun at Demchok, an Army source said.

Sources had earlier said that the areas and patrolling status were expected to be moved back to pre-April 2020 level.

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri on 21 October said in Delhi that an agreement was finalised between India and China following negotiations over the past several weeks and that it would lead to a resolution of the issues that arose in 2020.

The agreement was firmed up on patrolling and disengagement of troops along the LAC in eastern Ladakh, a breakthrough to end the over four-year standoff.

The move marks a significant development in the pursuit of reduced tension along the LAC in eastern Ladakh. —*PTI*

Cong to take legal recourse against EC over H'yana polls

NEW DELHI, 1 NOV

Congress on Friday hit out at Election Commission (EC) after it rejected allegations of "irregularities" in Haryana Assembly polls. The party said if the poll panel's goal is to "strip itself of the last vestiges of neutrality", then it is doing a "remarkable job" at creating that impression.

Congress claimed that EC's reply was written in a tone that is condescending and warned that if the poll panel persists with such language then it would have no choice but to seek legal recourse by approaching the court for getting such remarks expunged.

Congress' response came days after EC rejected allegations levelled by it over "irregularities" in Assembly polls, saying the party was raising "the smoke of a generic doubt" about the credibility of an entire electoral outcome.

Congress said it is not surprised that EC has examined its complaints and "given itself a clean chit".

The Congress leaders, who had petitioned the EC alleging irregularities in the polls, said every reply from the EC now "seems to be laced with ad-hominem attacks" on either individual leaders or the party itself.

Congress said it has sent over a hundred complaints against the prime minister and home minister, but "the ECI has taken action in precisely zero complaints, while calling our party president and former party president to account for their actions/ speeches". —*PTI*

WORKED ON INCOME INEQUALITY

PM's economic council head Debroy dies

NEW DELHI, 1 NOV

Bibek Debroy, a key economic adviser to the Prime Minister whose prolific work included economic theory, income inequality, and infrastructure financing, died on Friday. He was 69.

Debroy, who had a history of diabetes, hypertension, and a blockage in the heart for which he had a pacemaker, was admitted to the AIIMS emergency late on 31 October and died around 7am on Friday.

An empirical economist and a Padma Shri awardee, Debroy was the chairman of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council since September 2017.

A columnist to several newspapers, he had four days before his death sent a piece to The Indian Express newspaper, with a note: 'Unusual Column. Short of a requiem', according to the daily.

Bibek Debroy was awarded the Padma Shri in 2015 *PHOTO: PTI*

In the article, which was not published yet, he wrote about life after coming out of cardiac care centre (CCU) at AIIMS nearly a month ago.

A prolific writer, Debroy authored and edited several books, including translations of the puranas, the four vedas, and 11 major Upanishads.

Educated in Ramakrishna Mission School, Narendrapur and Kolkata's Presidency College, he went to the Delhi School of Economics and Trinity College, Cambridge.

He worked on trade issues in the 1980s and law reform in the following decade. He was also a full-time member of NITI Aayog from its constitution in 2015 until June 2019.

His work included authoring and editing several books, including translations of the puranas, the four vedas, and 11 major Upanishads as also Valmiki Ramayana and the Mahabharata.

Debroy had worked in Presidency College, Kolkata; Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Pune and Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, Delhi. In September, Debroy resigned as chancellor of the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics after the High Court extended interim relief to Vice-Chancellor Ajit Ranade, who was earlier removed from his post. —*PTI*

DKS: Our aim is to make Kannada language of life

BENGALURU, 1 NOV

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Friday greeted people of the State on 'Kananda Rajyotsava' and asserted that the goal was to make Kannada the language of life. Speaking at the 69th 'Kannada Rajyotsava' celebration, he said, "Our aim is to make Kannada a language of life. All of us need to offer our respects to our mother land by hoisting the flag of the land high."

Shivakumar said that Kannadigas have a responsibility to protect the language and the culture of the land. "Many states don't have Naada geethe (state song) and flag, Karnataka does. Our land is the land of diversity and peace and hence people from all over the world come here. Kannada has a history of over 2,000 years. Many Kannadigas from various countries are making an effort to spread the joy of Kannada. *—PTI*

KRRS leaders stand against communal & political agendas

MYSURU, 1 NOV

Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha and Hasiru Sene State unit chief Badagalapura Nagendra on Friday condemned BJP, all political party's communalisation, politicisation on the row over issuing notices to farmers marking as Wafq assets. Speaking to reporters, he said several organisations including BJP affiliated RSS, various caste groups and minority religious communities including Muslims, Christians and Jains have such properties in different districts provided by the government. But the ongoing row on issuing notices to farmers of Vijayapura district, its politicisation, projecting this issue on communal, caste grounds does not hold good. He accused that all political parties including BJP, Congress are all anti farmers and have no religion and castes, as people of all faiths are involved in such professions from time immemorial. He said that his association has also asked Vijayapura district farmer leaders to investigate this issue to protect the interest of farmers. *—Salar News*

Actor Darshan admitted at BGS hospital, in Kengeri on Friday
PHOTO: ANI

DKS says Oppn creating rift in families

Shivakumar says no question of winding up any guarantee; Opposition seeks apology

BENGALURU, 1 NOV

Lashing out at Opposition parties for dividing families on the basis of emotions, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar today said that Opposition failed to implement guarantee schemes in the State when it was in power.

"Opposition could not give the people guarantee schemes that Congress gave. But they are trying to destroy homes by creating rift between family members," he said while speaking to reporters at Kanteerava stadium, on Friday.

"We had instructed all schools, colleges and private companies to celebrate Kannada Rajyotsava. About 70 per cent of the institutions have done so," he said.

Asked about Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge's comments on guarantee schemes, he said, "Opposition parties are running out of agenda. Opposition said guarantee schemes would create rift between families, but it did not. They are jealous our work."

"Kharge is our senior leader, we have to listen to his advice. I urge all of you to listen to my statements on Shakthi scheme once again," he said.

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah during Kannada Rajyothsava celebrations ***PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD***

Guarantee schemes will not be stopped

"I only talked about the opinion of 5-10 per cent people on Shakthi scheme. Guarantee schemes will not be stopped at any cost. Conductors are hesitating to collect money from women who volunteer to pay for the ticket. I had only said that this needs to be looked into," he clarified.

Asked about Kharge's statement about being united, he said, "He gave a message to the party workers citing multiple contexts. We have been running the government and the party cordially. Has there been any untoward incidents since I took over as KPCC President and DyCM?"

Guarantee schemes are role model for other states

Replying to a query on introducing Karnataka-like guarantee schemes in Maharashtra, he said, "Karnataka's guarantee model has become a model at the national level. Even BJP ruled states have copied our models. This is a matter of pride for us."

Asked about Yatnal's letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi about Waqf Board, he said, "I am not going to respond to statements of mentally unstable people who belong in a mental hospital." *—Salar News*

People will not remain silent, Cong must apologise: BJP

BENGALURU, 1 NOV

Leader of the Opposition in the Karnataka Legislative Council, Chalavadi Narayanaswamy, on Friday, warned the Congress government that the people would not remain silent if deceived and would fight back.

BJP leader was responding to questions about the Shakti scheme, one of several Congress poll guarantees, which provides free bus services to women in Karnataka.

"The guarantee (Shakti scheme) should last as long as you (Congress) are in power. You came to power by promising these guarantees to the voters. Your statements (about the Shakti scheme) could turn Congress into a party that betrays the people. People will not remain silent if they feel cheated. They will fight back," he asserted.

Chalavadi Narayanaswamy
PHOTO: FB

Attacking Congress party over the 'Shakti scheme', BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad demanded an apology from Congress National President Mallikarjun Kharge and Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi and said that for the first time, Congress has accepted that they have misled the public. *—PTI/ANI*

'Shakti scheme led to inconvenience'

BJP leader CN Ashwath Narayan on Friday criticised Congress government in Karnataka saying the overcrowding and inefficient services led to collapse of the public transport system in the state. Narayan said that the Shakti scheme lead to inconveniences to the people. With overcrowding and inefficient services led to collapse of the public transport system in Karnataka. Now realising the mistake, Congress wants to withdraw the scheme. *—ANI*

'Financial injustice despite high GST collection in State'

MANGALURU, 1 NOV

Karnataka Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao on Friday expressed concerns over the state's financial hardship and claimed that despite being a top contributor to GST, the State has not received its rightful share.

The minister, who in-charge of Dakshina Kannada, said that even though Karnataka ranks second in the country for GST collection, the state has not received its rightful share from the Finance Commission, resulting in severe financial injustice.

"The power to impose taxes suitable for our state's needs has also been taken away under the GST regime, leaving us in a disadvantaged position. No state should have to endure this," he said, during the 'Karnataka Rajyotsava' celebrations held here.

Rao further stressed the imbalance in national representation, pointing out that Karnataka's successful population control efforts have ironically reduced the state's influence. *—PTI*

A saree-clad biker woman adds attitude to Deepavali festivities at Kengeri, Bengaluru, on Friday ***PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD***

69TH KANNADA RAJYOTHSAVA

> **This State is blessed with outstanding people, who are powering growth and innovation across sectors. May the people of Karnataka always be blessed with happiness and success**
>
> -Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

Students take part in cultural programmes during 69th Karnataka Rajyothsava celebrations; Chief Minister Siddaramaiah presents Rajyothsava award to Congress leader M Veerappa Moily; Students and teachers during the celebrations; DyCM Shivakumar presents Rajyothsava award to Prestige Group Chairman Irfan Razaq during in Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru on Friday ***PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD***

Hebbalkar: State approved Tourism Policy 2024-29

UDUPI, 1 NOV

Karnataka government has approved the Tourism Policy 2024-29, allocating Rs 1,349 crore to develop essential infrastructure and attract international tourists, state Minister Laxmi Hebbalkar announced on Friday.

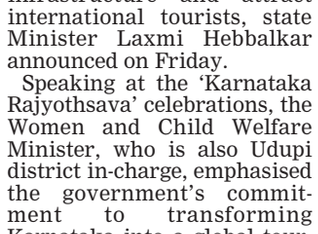
Speaking at the 'Karnataka Rajyothsava' celebrations, the Women and Child Welfare Minister, who is also Udupi district in-charge, emphasised the government's commitment to transforming Karnataka into a global tourism hub through enhanced services and facilities.

Highlighting Karnataka's investment appeal, Hebbalkar stated that Bengaluru continues to lead the nation in investment inflow, a feat credited to the government's strategic efforts.

Hebbalkar also highlighted the government's broader vision for socio-economic empowerment.

Addressing educational initiatives, she announced Rs 14.2 crore grant under the 'Odhu Karnataka' (Read Karnataka) programme, aimed at improving literacy among government school students in Classes 4 and 5. Study materials and teacher training have been implemented to ensure success. *—PTI*

- Highlighting Karnataka's investment appeal, Hebbalkar stated that Bengaluru continues to lead the nation in investment inflow, a feat credited to the government's strategic efforts



Laxmi Hebbalkar ***PHOTO: X***

Over 56 cases filed for violation of firecracker norms

BENGALURU, 1 NOV

Amid celebrations of Deepavali, the police have filed more than 56 cases in connection with selling and storing illegally and bursting crackers beyond permitted time frame in the City.

Speaking to Salar News on Friday, a senior police official from Bengaluru West Division said that the police had been keeping a strict vigil against the use of non-green crackers and people who violate the stipulated time period, between 8 and 10pm, to burst crackers. So far more than 56 cases have been registered across the City.

Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) had directed Bengaluru Police to keep a tab on the vendors selling non-green crackers following which Police Commissioner B Dayananda had deployed various police teams across the City.

ZONE WISE CASES

Central	0
North	9
South	4
East	6
West	0
North East	19
South East	9
Whitefield	9
TOTAL	56

"Despite this, attempts have been made to sell banned fire-crackers through online platforms. A police team is monitoring such activities 24/7. Online sale of firecrackers is prohibited and anyone found involved will face legal action. *—Salar News*

OVER 40 INJURED DURING DEEPAVALI

BENGALURU, 1 NOV

At least 40 cases of injuries due to firecrackers were reported in government and private hospitals in the last two days when City celebrated Deepavali, sources said on Friday. State-run Regional Institute of Ophthalmology-Minto Ophthalmic Hospital reported at least 14 cases of eye injuries until Friday evening.

Minto Hospital director Dr Nagaraj G told **Salar News** that while five patients were admitted, nine others were treated at the outpatient care.

"Among those injured, eight were children and six were adults. Out of these, eight experienced self-inflicted injuries while six were just bystanders. At least 10 patients had minor injuries while four had suffered severe damages. Two children aged 11 and five, have undergone an operation due to corneal tear.

Meanwhile, sources from Narayana Nethralaya said that it had received three children with minor injuries on hands and face. *—Salar News*

Actor Darshan hospitalised; fans flock at hospital

BENGALURU, 1 NOV

Kannada actor Darshan, who was granted interim bail on medical grounds in connection with the murder case of Renuka Swamy, has been admitted to BGS Hospital in Kengeri due to severe back and leg pain. The fans gathered outside the hospital on Friday to show their support and concern for the actor's health.

Neurosurgeon Dr Naveen, who is treating Darshan, provided an update on the actor's condition while speaking to the media and shared that the actor is experiencing discomfort in his back and leg. "Actor Darshan is admitted to the hospital because of back pain and leg pain. Everything needs to be tested, and currently, Darshan has a lot of pain in his left leg. Back pain needs to be tested, and all reports will come within 48 hours. Darshan has decreased sensation in his left leg. Some tests, including blood tests and an MRI scan, are pending and will stay in the hospital for the next two days," the doctor confirmed.

Justice S Vishwajith Shetty on Wednesday approved Darshan's interim bail application to facilitate surgery. High Court directed him to surrender his passport to the trial court. *—ANI*

BJP slams Cong over Wafq row politics

NEW DELHI, 1 NOV

BJP on Friday accused Congress of seeking to convert the lands of farmers and temples into Waqf properties due to its vote-bank politics and asserted that it would oppose such attempts "tooth and nail".

Senior BJP leader and former law minister Ravi Shankar Prasad cited notices served on farmers in Karnataka's Vijayapura district for allegedly encroaching on Waqf properties and alleged that a temple is also facing similar claims.

Forty-four properties of farmers have received such notices in three weeks, he told reporters.

Congress has been doing it due to its vote bank politics, Prasad added while asserting that the BJP would "protest any such attempt tooth and nail".

Only after a row erupted that Karnataka law minister MB Patil sought to defuse the crisis by blaming a gazette error for the notices, he claimed.

Meanwhile, Karnataka BJP MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to nationalise the Waqf properties.

He said the overreach of Waqf Boards and the lack of accountability have led to significant distress among property owners.

Calling it a "Tyranny of Waqf Board", the former union minister said it is claiming lands of farmers, mutts, temples and landowners, which is against the principles of equality enshrined in our Constitution. *—PTI*

City gets food security boost with subsidised grains

BENGALURU, 1 NOV

With the aim of easing the price rise challenge, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and National Co-operative Consumers' Federation of India Ltd (NCCF) have started distribution of essential food grains in Bengaluru at an affordable price.

In a press statement issued by NCCF on Friday, it was mentioned that these products are made available in Phase 2 of Bharath products.

Bharath rice is being sold at Rs 34, while the Bharath wheat flour Rs 30, Bharath Chana Dal Rs 70 and Bharath Moong Dal is being sold at just Rs 107. The market rate for the same products are rice Rs 55-60, atta Rs 45-50, dal Rs 90-100 and moong dal Rs 120-130.

This scheme was launched in Bengaluru on 30 October, as per the directions of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. *—PTI*

IN LEH

ISRO launches India's 1st analog space mission

PHOTO: NASA

LEH, 1 NOV

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on Friday announced the launch of India's first analog space mission, which commenced in Leh, Ladakh. This mission, led by ISRO's Human Spaceflight Centre, has been developed in partnership with AAKA Space Studio, the University of Ladakh, IIT Bombay, and supported by Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council.

The mission aims to simulate life and explore the challenges of establishing a base station beyond Earth.

This mission is a new step forward in simulating conditions similar to Mars and the Moon. Ladakh's extreme isolation, severe climate, and unique geographical features make it an ideal setting to mimic the challenges astronauts would face on these celestial bodies.

This mission will contribute valuable data to support India's Gaganyaan programme and future space exploration.

According to NASA, analog missions are field tests in Earth environments that mimic extreme space conditions. Analog missions allow scientists and engineers to understand how humans, robots, and technology might respond in space. *—ANI*

Rebel leaders will work for BJP: Fadnavis

Confident of victory, he says organisation and workers are vital for BJP

NAGPUR, 1 NOV

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Friday expressed confidence that the aspirants who rebelled against BJP due to disgruntlement in ticket allocation for the Assembly elections, will be convinced to work in the interest of the party.

He was speaking to reporters in his hometown Nagpur. The former chief minister is contesting the 20 November election from the Nagpur South-West Assembly constituency.

Asked about the state BJP unit's meeting with the party rebels held in Mumbai, Fadnavis said, "They are our own people and it is our responsibility to talk to them and convince them. Many times there is displeasure (over ticket distribution), but we are confident of convincing all of them to work for the party." The last day of withdrawal of nomination forms for the assembly polls is 4 November. The former chief minister noted that the BJP runs on its organisational setup and workers.

The party derives its energy from its workers. Hence, organisation and workers are very important in the BJP and lead us to victory, he said.

"We carry tiffins and eat together. It has been a tradition. Although I could not do so in the last two years, today I have come again to the office and I am happy to meet the workers and recollect fond memories," he said.

A total of 47,392 centenarians are among the more than 9.7 crore citizens in Maharashtra who are eligible to vote in the November 20 assembly polls, according to Election Commission data.

As per the figures shared by state Chief Electoral Officer, there are 22,22,704 voters in the age group of 18-19 years, while the number of centenarians, those aged 100 and above (oldest at 109), stood at 47,392.

The state has 9,70,25,119 registered voters – 5,00,22,739 men, 4,69,96,279 women and 6,101 of the third gender.

—PTI

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis **PHOTO: PTI**

> **There is already a favourable atmosphere for Congress. I was in Maharashtra recently, and there is an anti-government sentiment among the common people, which will benefit us. I hop eCongress and the alliance will win the elections**
>
> - Ashok Gehlot, Congress observer

HM unveils largest waste to energy plant in Gujarat

AHMEDABAD, 1 NOV

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday inaugurated a 15-megawatt power plant here, which will use solid waste to generate electricity. The facility, set up at a cost of Rs 375 crore near Piplaj village on the outskirts of Ahmedabad under Public Private Partnership (PPP) model, is the largest waste-to-energy power plant of Gujarat, the state government said in a release. Shah, who has been on a visit to his home state Gujarat from Thursday, inaugurated the 15 MW plant in the presence of state Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel and Health Minister Rushikesh Patel. Following the inauguration, Shah visited the plant premises and collected information related to its operation from the officials. Apart from generating electricity, the facility will also help the administration in keeping the city clean and reduce pollution, the release said. *—PTI*

Delhi Court allows Kamal's nephew to travel abroad

NEW DELHI, 1 NOV

A Delhi court has allowed former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath's nephew Ratul Puri, accused in a money laundering case connected to the purported fertiliser scam. Judge Jitendra Singh allowed Puri to travel to Japan from 16 to 25 November; from 25 November to 1 December to Oman, and Thailand from 20 December to 4 January, 2025, respectively. The judge directed Puri to submit an affidavit before the court, detailing a complete itinerary of his abroad travel and stay along with his phone number and an email ID before leaving the country. The judge directed him to furnish an fixed deposit receipt of Rs 25 lakh before the court."He shall not try to tamper with the evidence or influence any witness connected with the present case while travelling abroad," the judge said. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) raised apprehensions of Puri not returning to India if permitted to travel aborad while claiming that he could influence witnesses and tamper with the evidence.*—PTI*

Priyanka to resume poll campaign from 3 Nov

WAYANAD, 1 NOV

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra will resume her campaign for the Wayanad Lok Sabha bypoll from 3 November by holding public and corner meetings in the hill constituency with her brother, Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi, the party said on Friday. The Congress general secretary, who is making her electoral debut, will be in Kerala till November 7, according to her itinerary released by the party. Priyanka will hold a joint public meeting with her brother Rahul on 3 November, 11am, at Gandhi Park in Mananthavady here and thereafter, she will conduct corner meetings separately at three other places on the same day. In addition to the joint public meeting, He will hold a public meeting separately also. *—PTI*

2 TMC MLAs targeted in separate incidents

KOLKATA, 1 NOV

Two ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) MLAs were targeted by miscreants in West Bengal's North 24 Parganas district, police said on Friday. TMC MLA Usha Rani Mondal from Minakha sustained minor injuries when she was allegedly mobbed by 100 to 150 people in Haroa area on Thursday night while returning from a Kali Puja pandal, police said. Mondal told police that she was forced out of her vehicle and assaulted, with several gunshots fired during the incident. In another incident, TMC MLA Sukumar Mahata from Sandeshkhali was attacked while returning from a Kali Puja event in Nazat. His party workers were also injured in teh incident. *—PTI*

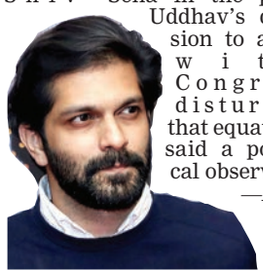
All eyes on debutant Amit Thackeray from 'Sena bastion' Mahim

MUMBAI, 1 NOV

The upcoming Maharashtra polls will test the hegemony of the Shiv Sena in Mumbai's Mahim constituency, where MNS chief Raj Thackeray's son Amit Thackeray is making his electoral debut.

BJP has added a layer of complexity to what otherwise seems like a three-corner contest involving Amit Thackeray, Shiv Sena's sitting MLA Sada Sarvankar and Mahesh Sawant nominated by rival Shiv Sena (UBT).

Despite Shiv Sena being its ally in the ruling Mahayuti coalition, BJP has expressed its keenness to back the MNS candidate. Though voters have mostly sided with the Shiv Sena in the past, Uddhav's decision to align with Congress disturbed that equation, said a political observer. *—PTI*



Shaina NC objects to Sena MP's 'imported maal' remark

MUMBAI, 1 NOV

An FIR was registered here on Friday against Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Arvind Sawant for referring to Shaina NC, an Assembly elections candidate of the rival Shiv Sena, as "imported maal".

Sawant, MP of Mumbai South, claimed that his remark was being misinterpreted, while Shaina, who is contesting from Mumbadevi assembly seat in the city, said it showed the mentality of the Uddhav Thackeray-led party.

Shaina, who was earlier with the Bharatiya Janata Party, joined Chief Minister Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena recently. She is pitted against Amin Patel of Congress in the 20 November Maharashtra Assembly elections.

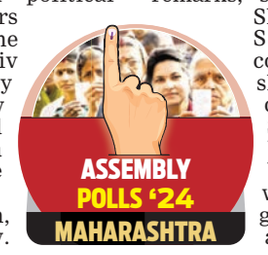
"Calling someone who is a professional and political worker for 20 years 'maal' shows the mentality of Shiv Sena (UBT). Why are Uddhav Thackeray, Sharad Pawar and Nana Patole silent?" she asked.

"I am a woman, not a commodity. Women will not keep silent in the face of derogatory language directed at them. With (goddess) Mumbadevi's blessings, I am committed to serving Mumbaikars. Arvind Sawant's comments highlight the anti-women mentality within the Sena (UBT) faction," Shaina further said.

"Even more disturbing was Congress candidate Amin Patel's apparent amusement as Sawant made these remarks," she said.

Shaina also said Sawant's comment stood in sharp contrast to chief minister Shinde's flagship `Ladki Bahin Yojana' under which women get financial aid. *—PTI*

PHOTO: PTI



Upcoming election is for saving 'Sanatan' in J'khand: Himanta

DEOGHAR, 1 NOV

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Friday said that the upcoming assembly election in Jharkhand was for saving 'Sanatan' in the state.

He claimed that the Hindu population in Jharkhand's Santhal Pargana region has declined from 90 per cent in 1951 to 67 per cent in 2011.

Sarma, also the BJP's Jharkhand election co-incharge, was addressing an election rally in Deoghar district in favour of BJP nominee Randhir Singh, who filed his nomination from Sarath assembly constituency.

"The election this time is not for JMM or Congress but for saving the Sanatan in Jharkhand," he said.

He claimed that Santhal Pargana region, which comprises six districts of Sahibganj, Godda, Pakur, Dumka, Deoghar and Jamtara, had a total population of 26 lakh in 1951.

"Of the total population, around 90 per cent were Hindu and 9.43 per cent were Muslim. The tribal population at that time was 10.34 lakh, which was 44 per cent of the total Hindu population. In the 2011 Census, the Hindu population declined to 67 per cent and the tribal population to 28 per cent in the Santhal Pargana region," Sarma claimed.

He said that the Hindu population might go down to 60 per cent in the latest census, which is yet to be conducted.

Sarma claimed that the native Muslim population in the region has not increased that much.

"We don't have any issue with them. But we have a problem with the Bangladeshi infiltrators, who are coming to Jharkhand through West Bengal's Murshidabad and getting the government's patronage here," he said.

He claimed that the infiltrators are marrying tribal girls, occupying lands and becoming 'mukhiya' (village head). *—PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

Doval, Sullivan discuss defence ties over phone

WASHINGTON, 1 NOV

Amid tension between India and the US over the alleged targeting of Sikh separatists by India, National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan spoke over the phone with his Indian counterpart Ajit Doval during which they discussed regional security developments, bilateral issues including defence cooperation.

They also discussed the need for further efforts to ensure stability in the Indo-Pacific region and globally, the White House said on Wednesday in a readout of the call. Early this week, the US had said that Canada's allegations against Union Home Minister Amit Shah are "concerning"..

Canada's Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister had "confirmed" a leaked Washington Post report alleging that Shah was behind a campaign to target Khalistani separatists in Canada. *—PTI*

UCC NEEDS MUSLIMS' CONSENSUS, SAYS PRASHANT KISHOR

GAYA, 1 NOV

Jan Suraj chief Prashant Kishor said on Friday that the Centre cannot implement the Uniform Civil Code in the country unless the Muslim community is taken into confidence.

" We saw protests all over the country in the case of CAA-NRC. Unless the government takes into confidence the people who will be affected by the law, it cannot be implemented," he added.

He pointed out the Centre's revocation of farm laws as an example of what will happen when the stakeholders are not taken into confidence before bringing laws. UCC was a proposal to establish uniform rules for personal matters for all citizens. These matters include marriage, divorce, and property rights. *—PTI*

Cong requests police to enhance Sharmila's security

AMARAVATI, 1 NOV

Amid a raging battle over the apportionment of assets between YS Sharmila and her elder brother YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, an Andhra Pradesh Congress leader requested police to extend and enhance security to Sharmila, citing 'potential threats' to her safety.

SN Raja, general secretary, in charge (administration and organisation), Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) wrote a letter to DGP Ch Dwaraka Tirumala Rao, requesting the extension of 'Y ' Category security and 4+4 security arrangement for Sharmila.

Raja requested Rao to extend the same for her in Andhra Pradesh, considering the 'evolving situation' and the increasing public and political activities she is engaged in.

According to Raja, the extension of 'Y ' Category security would "ensure her (Sharmila) protection and safety as she continues her important work". *—PTI*

DEEPAM - 2 SCHEME

Andhra Pradesh CM Chandrababu Naidu serves tea at the home of a beneficiary during the launch of the 'Deepam - 2', a free cooking gas cylinder distribution scheme, in Srikakulam district, on Friday. 'Deepam - 2' offers three cylinders per annum - one cylinder every four months **PHOTO: PTI**

₹817.80 CR SHARE

Kerala CM urges FM to release Vizhinjam grant

T'PURAM, 1 NOV

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has urged Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to release the Centre's share of Rs 817.80 crore in the Viability Gap Funding (VGF) for the Vizhinjam seaport here without imposing the condition that the state has to repay it later.

Vijayan, in a letter to the FM, said the condition imposed by the Empowered Committee constituted by the Department of Economic Affairs, that the VGF amount should be repaid by Kerala in Net Present Value (NPV) terms by way of premium (revenue) sharing, would result in a huge loss of Rs 10,000 to 12,000 crore to the state exchequer.

"The state is investing resources to the tune of Rs 5,595 crore out of the total project outlay of Rs 8,867 crore. I am sure, the Hon'ble Minister would appreciate that given the financial situation of a small state, like Kerala with limited financial resources, this scale of investment involves tremendous sacrifice on the part of the state. "In addition, as the repayment of Rs 817.80 crore is to be made on NPV basis, this would involve a further loss of Rs 10,000 to 12,000 crore to the state exchequer in actual terms, computed on projected interest rates and revenue realisation from the port over the period of repayment," he said. *—PTI*

PHOTO: X/@PORTOFVIZHINJAM

KERALA BLACK MONEY CASE PUTS BJP IN TOUGH SPOT

T'PURAM, 1 NOV

BJP's former Thrissur district office secretary Tirur Satheesh's revelations about the 2021 Kodakara black money case have put the party in a tough situation amidst the ongoing bypoll campaigns in the state, with the CPI(M)-led LDF and Congress demanding a probe into the issue.

On Friday, CPI(M) state secretary MV Govindan called for a thorough investigation following the new revelations in the case. He termed the disclosure "serious" and alleged that it should not be viewed merely as the Kodakara case, but rather as a small piece of a larger black money distribution network run by the BJP throughout the state. Satheeshan has claimed that the money, allegedly transported in six sacks by an individual named Dharmarajan, was brought to the party office under the guise of election materials, and he had guarded the office. *—PTI*

TRIBUTES POUR IN

BJP's voice in Jammu, Devender Rana, dies at 59

JAMMU, 1 NOV

Senior BJP leader and Nagrota MLA **Devender Singh Rana,** brother of Union minister Jitendra Singh, died on Thursday at a private hospital in Haryana's Faridabad. He was 59.

According to a senior BJP leader, Rana was undergoing treatment at the hospital. He is survived by his wife, Gunjan Rana, their daughters Devyani and Ketki, and son Adhiraj Singh.

Rana, who turned to politics from business as he built a multi-crore business from scratch, was a strong voice for Jammu's Dogra community.

Rana was recently re-elected to the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly from the Nagrota segment of Jammu district, securing the seat for a second term.

PDP Chief and former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti also offered her condolences on Rana's death. "Shocked to hear about the sudden demise of Devender Rana Ji. Deepest condolences to his family and loved ones," Mufti said on X. *—PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

> **He (Rana) was a veteran leader, who worked diligently towards Jammu and Kashmir's progress. He had just won the assembly polls and had also played a noteworthy role in making the BJP stronger in Jammu and Kashmir."**
>
> - Narendra Modi, PM

> **The terrible news from last night about Devender isn't really sinking in. I know the last few years have been marked by our differences, Devender, but I prefer to focus on the fun times we shared together, the excellent work we did together and the memories**
>
> - Omar Abdullah, J&K CM

Locals mourn

Throughout his political career, Rana remained committed to issues of regional empowerment and unity among various communities. His ability to connect with both Hindus and Muslims, particularly the Gujjar community, solidified his reputation. He will be remembered for his patient listening and genuine connection.His untimely passing leaves a void in the hearts of his family and the communities he served.

Kerala court grants Divya's police custody for 6 hours

KANNUR, 1 NOV

A Kerala court on Friday granted CPI(M) leader P P Divya's custody to the police for six hours for being questioned in the Additional District Magistrate Naveen Babu suicide case.

The Judicial First-Class Magistrate (JFCM) court allowed the police to question Divya, accused of abetting the suicide of Babu, till 5pm.

The police had sought her custody for two days.

Subsequently, she was questioned at the Kannur Town police station by the investigation team. Meanwhile, the Thalassery Principal District Sessions Court adjourned Divya's bail application to Tuesday. The day also saw the Congress carrying out a protest march to the collectorate seeking action against District Collector Arun K Vijayan.

The protest was led by Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) chief K Sudhakaran, who said the Collector should have had the courage to stop Divya from making her allegations. He said that the Collector should be ready to rectify his stand. *—PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

2 more arrested over gangrape of girl in Bhubaneswar

BHUBANESWAR, 1 NOV

Two more people were arrested on Friday in the gangrape of a 17-year-old girl in Bhubaneswar, police said. With the fresh arrests, a total of five people, including a female friend of the victim, have been arrested. Police had on Thursday arrested two men, both aged 19 years, and a 16-year-old girl. Two other people, aged 21 and 23 years, were also detained. The girl was allegedly gangraped in a hotel in the Odisha capital on 16 October. The arrested girl was a common friend of both the victim and the accused and had allegedly introduced the survivor to the accused, another police officer said. "The accused had allegedly spiked the victim's soft drink with some intoxicant and gangraped her," he said. *—PTI*

Two children found dead in UP; kin allege sacrifice

SAHARANPUR, , 1 NOV

Two children were found dead under suspicious circumstances in the Deoband area of this Uttar Pradesh district, police said Friday. Their family members claimed the children were killed as part of a tantric ritual, they added. Superintendent of Police (Rural) Sagar Jain said Dev (11) and his 9-year-old cousin Mahi had gone to a temple outside their village in Bhayal on Thursday. "When they did not return by late night, the family began a search. Around midnight, the children's bodies were found on the roadside, prompting villagers to notify the police," Jain said. The police, who arrived at the scene with a forensic team, noted that both the bodies showed signs of broken bones, indicating possibility of a road accident. *—PTI*

25 garment shops gutted in fire in Bhubaneswar

BHUBANESWAR, 1 NOV

Around 25 garment shops were gutted in a fire that broke out in a market in Odisha's Bhubaneswar during Diwali celebrations early on Friday, police said. No one was injured in the incident, but garments were damaged due to the fire, a senior officer said. "Around 25 garment shops were severely damaged in the fire that engulfed the underground market at Unit-I Market Building area late on Diwali night," he said. Five fire tenders were pressed into service, and it took five hours to douse the blaze, the officer said. A preliminary report revealed that the fire broke out in a saree store and spread to adjacent shops, he said. It was difficult for fire brigade to get control over the blaze. *—PTI*

Two dead, 6 ill after eating mango kernel in Odisha

ODISHA, 1 NOV

At least two women died, and six others fell ill after allegedly consuming gruel made of mango kernel in Odisha's Kandhamal district, police said on Friday. The consumption of mango kernel gruel, a simple dish made by boiling oats in milk or water, was reported from Mandipanka village under the Daringbadi block, an officer said. One of the two women died on Thursday night at Mohana Community Health Centre in Gajapati district where she was undergoing treatment after "consuming the grue", Gadapur sarpanch Kumari Mallick said. Another woman, who also fell sick, breathed her last when she was taken to the MKCG Medical College and Hospital here on Friday morning, the panchayat member said. Six others, who fell ill after allegedly consuming the gruel, were admitted to a hospital. *—PTI*

Air quality deteriorates to 'severe' in India's cleanest city Indore

Many states see deteriorating air quality as ban on firecrackers was flouted

INDORE/ KOLKATA/ CHANDIGARH, 1 NOV

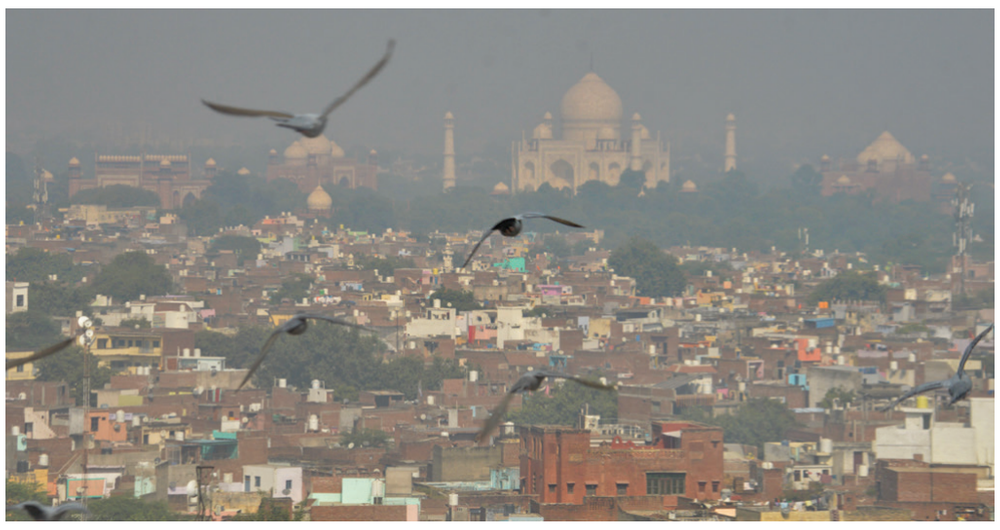
Air Quality Index in Indore, the country's cleanest city, breached the 400 mark on Friday, indicating that the air quality has reached the "severe" category in Madhya Pradesh's financial capital.

According to the State Pollution Control Board data, the AQI in the city's Chhoti Gwaltoli area was pegged at 404 at noon, while the PM 2.5 (particulate matter) average was recorded at 255.26. The average level of PM 10 in the city was 318.08.

Chhoti Gwaltoli is a densely populated area of the city that sees heavy vehicular movement.

The city's air quality usually remains in the "satisfactory" (AQI 51-100) category, the expert said.

As per the MET department, an AQI between 0 and 50 is considered "good", 51 and 100 "satisfactory", 101 and 200 "moderate", 201 and 300 "poor", 301 and 400 "very poor", and 401 and 500 "severe".



The Taj Mahal complex is obscured by smog a day after Deepavali, in Agra, on Friday *PHOTO: PTI*

Kolkata

Kolkata's AQI was 'poor' across different pockets on Friday, a day after Kali Pooja and Deepavali, an official said.

A West Bengal Pollution Control Board (WBPCB) official told PTI, that AQI levels in terms of PM 2.5 were 173 in Ballygunje area and it hovered around 166 in pockets like Jadavpur, Beleghata, Sinthi on Friday and was classified as 'poor'.

Environmentalist and green activist Somendra Mohan Ghosh alleged that sound crackers were burst rampantly from 9pm till 12 midnight and even after 1 am, in Dhakuria, Jadavpur, Ballygunje, Chetla, Beleghata, Sinthi and several other pockets of the city.

Kolkata Police arrested 601 people for bursting banned firecrackers and disorderly conduct in the last 24 hours till Friday morning, an officer said.

The police also seized over 700 kg of banned firecrackers, 79.4 litre of liquor and prosecuted over 800 people for violating traffic rules from different parts of the city during the period, he added.

Haryana, Punjab

The AQI in several places in Haryana and some in neighbouring Punjab was recorded in the 'poor' and 'very poor' categories on Friday, the morning after Deepavali.

The AQI in the Union Territory of Chandigarh was also in the 'very poor' category.

At 9 am on Friday, AQI was recorded at 344 in Haryana's Gurugram, 340 in Jind, 308 in Ambala and 304 in Kurukshetra, according to the Sameer app that provides hourly updates of the national AQI published by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

Chandigarh's AQI was recorded at 303. *—PTI*

India vows to protect 30% of biodiverse areas

NEW DELHI, 1 NOV

India launched its updated biodiversity action plan with a goal to protect at least 30 per cent of its terrestrial, inland water, and coastal and marine areas by 2030, in line with global biodiversity targets.

The updated National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), unveiled at the 16th UN Biodiversity Conference in Cali, Colombia, outlines 23 national targets aligned with the 23 global goals set under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF), which was adopted at the 15th UN Biodiversity Conference in Canada in 2022.

India, recognised as one of the 17 megadiverse countries, became a party to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in 1994. It harbours 7-8 per cent of the world's recorded species within just 2.4 percent of the global land area. *—PTI*

RG Kar victim's parents say not upset with Shah

KOLKATA, 1 NOV

The parents of the medic who was raped and murdered in RG Kar Medical College and Hospital said that they were not upset about not getting an audience with Union Minister Amit Shah during his visit to West Bengal on 27 October.

The couple, who had written to Shah on 22 October seeking an appointment, expressed hope that they may get the opportunity to meet the Union home minister in future.

"We understand that being the Home Minister, he has enormous responsibilities. He must be too hard-pressed to squeeze some time out for us during the day-long visit," the mother of the deceased doctor said Thursday.

On 27 October, Shah made his first visit to Bengal after the Lok Sabha polls in April-May and also after the rape and murder of the on-duty doctor at the state-run RG Kar hospital on 9 August, Which triggered nationwide protests.

Amit Shah *PHOTO: PTI*

State BJP leaders had said they would try to arrange a meeting between Shah and the medic's parents, but it did not happen. *—PTI*

FESTIVAL TURNS DEADLY

Man, teen nephew shot dead in Delhi

NEW DELHI, 1 NOV

A 40-year-old man and his teenaged nephew were shot dead while his 10-year-old son was injured after two armed men opened fire outside their residence in Delhi's Shahdara on Thursday, an official said.

While Akash Sharma alias Chottu and his nephew, Rishabh Sharma, 16, were killed in the incident, Krish Sharma, 10, sustained bullet injuries, the official said, adding that the victims were celebrating Deepavali outside their house in Shahdara's Farsh Bazar area when they were attacked on Thursday.

Eyewitnesses told police that the assailants touched the feet of Akash Sharma before opening fire at him. All the victims were rushed to a hospital.

Akash Sharma's son Krish and nephew Rishabh, who were standing nearby, were also hit by bullets.

Prima facie, it seem to be a case of personal enmity, police said. *—PTI*

Eyewitnesses told police that the assailants touched the feet of Akash Sharma before opening fire at him *PIC: X/@SHANKERSINGH5*

MUMBAI: 1 DEAD AFTER FIGHT OVER CRACKERS

MUMBAI, 1 NOV

A 20-year-old man was stabbed to death after two groups clashed over the bursting of firecrackers in central Mumbai on Friday, following which police arrested five people, including a woman, an official said.

Vivek Gupta lost his life during the confrontation in the Antop Hill area, he said.

It started when a group of residents was bursting crackers in a narrow lane at Jai Maharashtra Nagar in Kokri Agar post-midnight on Thursday.

Accused Kartik R Mohan Devendra, who was passing by on a two-wheeler, asked the group to move to a secluded spot. However, he was allegedly thrashed by the group. Devendra then left the spot. Devendra returned to the lane with his wife, brother and a few more people carrying wooden sticks and cricket bats and the two groups soon got into a clash. *—PTI*

LAST RITES OF CATHOLICOS THOMAS TODAY

KOCHI, 1 NOV

The mortal remains of Catholicos Aboon Mor Baselios Thomas-I were taken to the Patriarchal Centre, Puthencruz - the headquarters of the Jacobite church, on Friday. Mor Baselios Thomas-I, the spiritual leader of the country's Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church, died on Thursday in a private hospital here. He was 95. He will be interred in a specially constructed tomb at the Patriarchal Centre on Saturday at 3pm. He had led the church's followers through a period of turmoil after a Supreme Court ruling stripped the Jacobite faction of control over its churches. Amidst the dispute between the Jacobite and Orthodox factions of the Malankara Church, he led the former's faction after they lost the control of their churches and properties following the 2017 verdict. *—PTI*

Bizman, wife, maid choke to death in house fire

Kanpur, 1 Nov

A prominent businessman, his wife and their domestic help died allegedly of suffocation inside their house here following a fire that broke out from a 'diya' early Friday, police said. The couple had installed an electronic lock on their bedroom door but as the blaze erupted, they failed to enter the correct unlocking code in panic and remained trapped. Sanjay Shyam Dasani, 49, his wife Kanika, 45, and their domestic help Chhavi Chauhan, 24, a resident of the city's Pandu Nagar area, died in the fire. Dasani, a prominent local businessman, owned a biscuit company Ambaji Foods and was involved in other business ventures. *—PTI*

Ex-Waqf board chief Rizvi is now Thakur Jitendra

NEW DELHI, 1 NOV

The former chairman of the Shia Waqf Board Wasim Rizvi, has reportedly changed his name yet again. After converting to Hinduism in December 2021, he initially adopted the name Jitendra Narayan Tyagi. However, he has now taken on the name Thakur Jitendra Narayan Singh Sengar. According to reports, Rizvi explained that his previous name didn't make him "feel special," prompting his newly changed name.

Wasim Rizvi *PHOTO: PTI*

Rizvi first made headlines for his conversion at the Dasna Devi temple in Ghaziabad, where the controversial right-wing Hindutva leader Swami Yati Narsinghanand presided over his renaming. The ceremony included a yagna and traditional rituals.

Since his conversion, Rizvi has been a polarizing figure, frequently in the news for his provocative statements against Islam. He notably filed a petition to remove certain verses from the Quran and authored a contentious book about the Prophet Muhammad. His actions have led to various legal entanglements.

In November 2020, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) registered cases against him for alleged irregularities in the sale and transfer of waqf properties in Uttar Pradesh, based on complaints dating back to 2016 and 2017, accusing him of criminal trespass, cheating, and breach of trust. Earlier, in February 2020, he faced prosecution for allegedly promoting enmity through illegal construction at a religious site in Prayagraj. *—Salar News with Agencies*

Fishing ban in Odisha for Ridley turtle conservation

KENDRAPARA, 1 NOV

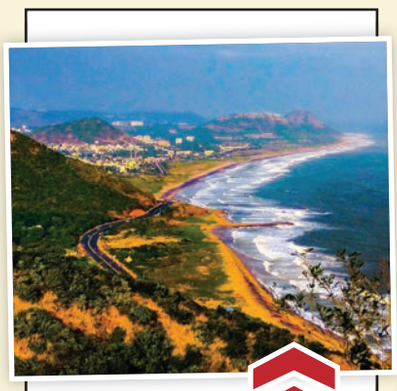
The Odisha government on Friday enforced a seven-month-long prohibition on sea fishing activity within 20km of the coast at the river mouths of Dhamara, Devi and Rusikulya as part of the annual Olive Ridley turtle conservation programme, officials said.

The fishing ban would remain effective from 1 November to 31 May.

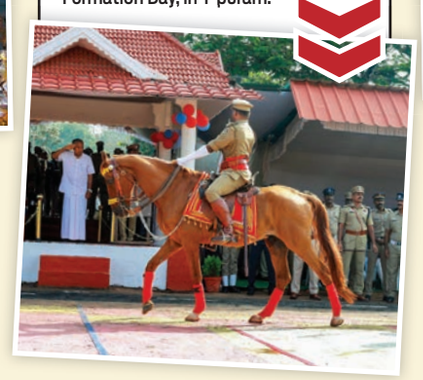
Around 10,666 fishermen's families will be affected following the fishing ban. Therefore to compensate for the loss of income avenues, the state government has decided to extend one-time livelihood assistance of Rs 7,500 to the affected fishermen families. *—PTI*

TAPESTRY OF HERITAGE

States commemorate Formation Day, honour diversity

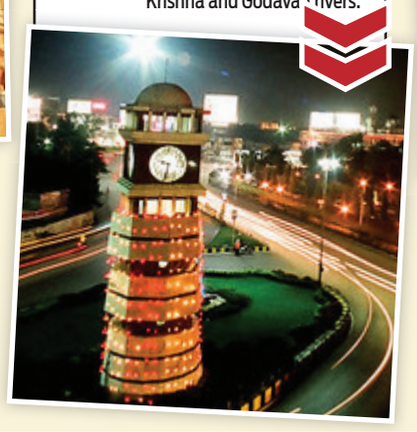


ANDHRA PRADESH
This was the first state created on the basis of language. Andhra came into existence on 1 November, 1956, when the state of Hyderabad was split up under the States Reorganisation Act.



KERALA
Kerala, a state known for its scenic beauty and literacy achievements, came into existence in 1956 when Travancore-Cochin state was merged with Malabar of Madras and Kasaragod taluk of South Canara. Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan takes the salute during the Passing Out Parade on Kerala Formation Day, in T'puram.

HARYANA
The state was carved out of Punjab on 1 November, 1966, based on linguistic lines, Streets are filled with events like bicycle races and foot races. The state is known for its rich history and significant contributions to agriculture and sports.



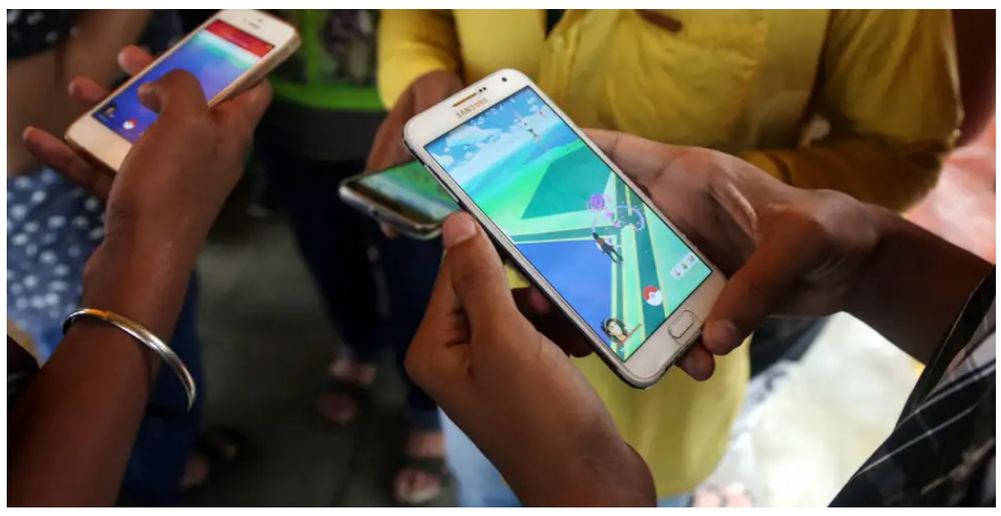
CHHATTISGARH
It was the 26th state to be created in India and was carved out of Madhya Pradesh on 1 November, 2000. Chhattisgarh is known as the "rice bowl of India", which traditionally refers to the delta region formed by the Krishna and Godavari rivers.

MADHYA PRADESH
Located in the heart of India, Madhya Pradesh was reorganised on 1 November, 1956. Madhya Pradesh is known for its dense forest reserves and wildlife. It is a significant contributor to the country's agricultural production.

SNOW NO SHOW ON MOUNT FUJI

November has begun but Japan's iconic Mount Fuji remains snowless, marking the first time without a snowcap in 130 years. The peaks of Japan's highest mountain are usually covered in snow by early October, but as of Friday the summit has remained bare – raising the alarm of the impacts of the climate crisis
PHOTO: X/@CLIMATE_ICE

Can satellite internet bridge digital divide?



Satellite broadband can be more reliable than mobile data for rural users in India ***PHOTO: DW NEWS***

Satellite internet in India is poised for substantial growth, with alliances emerging between satellite operators and local telecom companies.

Satellite internet access is set to improve the lives of Indians living in remote and underdeveloped areas where traditional internet infrastructure like DSL or cable is unavailable, which reduces access to education, healthcare, and e-commerce.

Although mobile internet penetration is high, with around 876 million mobile broadband users, many of these users still experience issues with connectivity and speed.

An estimated 665 million people, around 45per cent of the population, do not access the internet, according to joint study released in February 2024 by the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) and Kantar, an analytics firm.

Although more and more Indian are accessing the internet, there is also a substantial digital divide, with connectivity in rural areas limited or non-existent when compared with urban areas.

India has the second-highest number of internet users worldwide.

"Satellite internet will provide quick relief to the unserved and underserved especially in rural pockets of India," said Sunil Parekh, co-founder of TechXchange, an organization supporting Indian innovation and startups.

"While satellite internet costs could be higher and speeds varying depending on the provider, video calls, education, health, and payment services can work well," he told DW.

According to Deloitte, a UK based professional services network, India's satellite broadband service market is expected to increase by 36per cent annually, reaching $1.9 billion (₹1.75 billion) in 2030.

The introduction of Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellites significantly enhances service quality by providing lower latency and higher speeds compared to traditional geostationary satellites.

Competition for the spectrum

Competition is heating up for India's satellite broadband spectrum with around half a dozen key players.

Tycoon Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Jio is partnering with Luxembourg-based SES Astra, a top satellite operator. Other global giants such as Amazon's Kuiper and Elon Musk's Starlink are also vying for a spot.

Starlink has received an in-principle approval from the government, however, it is awaiting final vetting although it has over 6,400 satellites in orbit and millions of subscribers.

The government is considering an administrative approach for spectrum allocation rather than auctions, which could facilitate quicker entry for satellite providers like Starlink.

The exact start date for satellite internet services hinges on obtaining final approvals from regulatory authorities.

"The issue of sharing spectrum based on administrative allocation versus auction remains an issue between US players and Indian telecom giants," said Parekh.

"The government is taking a view to follow international guidelines based on administrative allocation. Overall, satellite internet is a good development in digitizing India in remote areas of the country," he added.

Satellite internet suited for rural India

Satellite networks are less susceptible to damage from natural disasters compared to terrestrial systems and services can be restored quickly even when local infrastructure is compromised.

Shrijay Sheth, founder of LegalWiz.in, a consultancy firm, said that while India already has high internet penetration, both in terms of data consumption and digital commerce, satellite internet advances will result in more adoption and reductions in costs through economies of scale.

"It will widen the reach where currently internet access is limited due to physical infrastructure requirements," Sheth told DW.

"Low earth orbit (LEO) satellite constellations like Starlink and OneWeb are already getting early success, and India's commitment to space tech will be a direct incentive to homegrown innovation within this space," Sheth added.

India's government recently approved over 10 billion rupees ($135 million, ₹124 million) to support space tech startups.

The recent approval of 10,000 million rupees for a venture capital fund for Space tech startups has been an impetus.

India government has also opened the door to 100per cent foreign direct investment in satellite manufacturing components without prior clearance, which has sparked significant investor interest.

"This is a ripe opportunity for the rural populace which will enable them access to vital services like telemedicine and digital education while creating opportunities for new connected industries," added Sheth.

How to keep high costs down

High costs remains a hurdle for satellite internet services as a consumer product. Setting up satcom technology is expensive, and competing with the low pricing of terrestrial DSL and mobile broadband services is difficult.

However, experts believe that given the advantages offered by satellite broadband in bridging the digital divide and unlocking the potential of India's underserved regions, operators will keep the costs down. *—DW News*

SALAR سالار

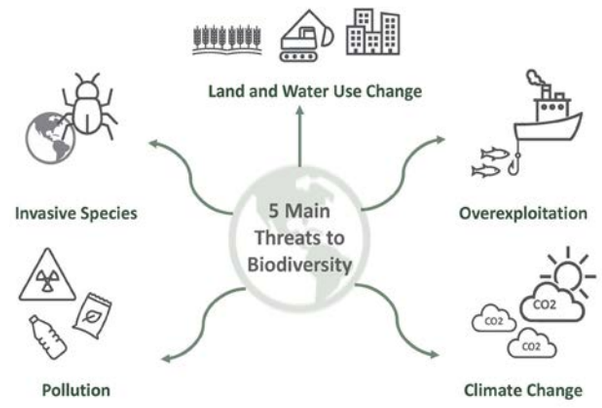
5 things we can do to end the biodiversity crisis

The world is charging towards tipping points for species extinctions, ecosystem collapse and loss of genetic diversity. Crossing these tipping points will be devastating for nature and human existence alike.

Avoiding this catastrophe of humanity's making is the purpose of the 16th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (COP16) in Cali, Colombia. COP16 has been reviewing progress on implementing the Global Biodiversity Framework adopted at COP15 in Montreal, Canada, in 2022. Progress has been incremental at best.

These pledges, plans and goals, while necessary and commendable, are also far removed and often intangible for everyday citizens. Collective global action is inherently political. It moves at glacial pace when urgent action is needed.

The issues can seem so colossal and complex that individuals often feel powerless. This may mean they do nothing or, worse, add to the problem. But, in fact, there are five steps individuals can take to help end the biodiversity crisis.



Our demand for new products affects resource extraction (leading to habitat loss), carbon emissions and pollution ***PHOTO: NBS***

So why isn't government action enough?

COP16 wraps up on 1 November, but has so far failed to live up to expectations. The COP16 chair claims it has put biodiversity "on an equal footing" with climate. However, solid commitments have yet to emerge.

For example, before COP16, governments had pledged only US$250 million (A380 million) of the estimated $200 billion per year required by 2030 for the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund. Pledges of another $163 million this week take the total number of contributors to a mere 12.

Only 15per cent of countries (including Australia) met the deadline to submit their plans to meet the goals set at COP15.

These include protecting at least 30per cent of the world's land and water and restoring 30 per cent of degraded ecosystems by 2030.

And plans do not guarantee action. Indeed, the world has never achieved a single global nature target set by such initiatives.

Our everyday decisions can't be divorced from nature

By understanding our connection to nature, we can all reduce our impact on nature.

Here are five ways you can make a difference, starting today.

1. Cut consumption when you can

Do you really need to update your mobile phone, your summer wardrobe or your flat-screen TV? What we buy reverberates around the globe.

Our demand for new products affects resource extraction (leading to habitat loss), carbon emissions (propelling climate change) and pollution (degrading habitat). These impacts are often far from where we make our purchases. From the lithium in our phones to the plastics in our clothes and the metals in our vehicles, our consumption drives demand, which almost inevitably harms biodiversity.

2. Watch what you eat

Agriculture is the single greatest driver of changes in land use and biodiversity loss. We all need to eat, of course, but where possible buy local and sustainably produced foods.

Reducing processed foods in your shopping trolley is a good start. Cutting your intake of over-fished, wild-caught seafood, red meat and palm oil-based products will also help. This issue is not straightforward because these products are available as a confusing mix of unsustainable and sustainable options.

A further complication, made worse by the rise of greenwashing, is that it can be hard to work out exactly what is in certain foods or where they came from.

3. Choose renewable energy

The climate and biodiversity crises are inseparable. Neither can be resolved in isolation. For example, nature-based solutions, such as protecting forests as carbon sinks, will help with both the climate crisis and biodiversity.

With greenhouse gas emissions driving climate change, which threatens many species, a whole range of our choices determine the impacts of our energy use. From your mode of transport to powering your home, choose renewable energy sources.

Tech giants such as Google and Amazon are turning to nuclear energy to power their generative AI and cloud storage in an effort to reduce their climate impact. However, 100per cent renewable energy is realistic if consumers demand it from their power companies and governments.

4. Get your hands dirty

You can take direct action to protect and increase biodiversity. Volunteer or donate to environmental projects in your neighbourhood. Not only will this make you feel good, but revegetation and habitat restoration do improve local biodiversity. Many grass-roots, community-driven projects are making a difference on the ground.

They range from urban restoration work, such as the Merri Creek restoration in Melbourne, to forest stewardship projects, such as Tarwin River Forest in Gippsland, Victoria. Get local and get involved!

5. Adjust expectations and accept responsibility

People in wealthy countries (such as Australia) have both the biggest environmental footprints and the most capacity to adapt. They must lead change.

The process starts with increasing awareness of the issues and taking responsibility for change. That includes adjusting our expectations about how and where we live. Small changes are magnified when repeated by millions of people.

We should never doubt the power of cumulative impact. After all, it's what got us into this mess. *—PTI*

LETTERS write to us at salarenglishdigital@gmail.com

What Trump's victory would mean for the rest of the world

According to the United Nations 2024 is "the biggest election year in human history" with half of the world's population – some 3.7 billion people in 72 countries – able to vote. Yet some elections are more consequential than others which is why the world is watching as the US goes to the polls.

The US is the world's largest economy, and the biggest military power. But it also the lynchpin of many international strategic alliances, the economic and financial system and many of the world's liberal institutions.

These elections are a pivotal moment in US history which could have massive implications for how the country is governed and for the future of the post-war order that Washington has helped build.

Unlike any election since 1945 the basic tenets of US relations with the rest of the world are in contention.

The choice is between Donald Trump's Republican party potentially offering a complete break from the US's role in the international community, compared to Kamala Harris's more international agenda under the Democrats.

Under Harris the US is likely to continue to play a significant role in Nato, for instance.

Tariffs on China

The most conspicuous assault on the US's foreign policy tradition is Trump's plans to impose a universal tariff of 20per cent on all foreign imports. Tariffs on China could be much higher with threats from Trump of 60-200per cent. As well as being inflationary and damaging to the American economy such moves are likely to result in retaliation, trade wars and dislocation with the world economy. By limiting access to the world's largest national market, they would also hamper global efforts to transition to a zero-carbon economy.

Such matters are of little concern to Trump however, who plans to repeat his withdrawal of Washington from the Paris agreement on climate change, to repeal the environmental protection measures implemented by Joe Biden, and to authorise the unrestricted exploitation of US oil and gas deposits through deregulated fracking. Trump's plans would add tonnes of extra carbon to the atmosphere if executed and would be likely to significantly undermine global work on climate change

Also in contention in the 2024 election is the US commitment to defend its friends and allies from hostile states. As a member of Nato the US is bound to come to the aid of the other members under article 5, if another country attacks them, and it also has similar treaties with Japan and South Korea. The Biden administration led Nato in supporting Ukraine with military and financial aid to prevent its total subjugation to Russian occupation.

The most conspicuous assault on the US's foreign policy tradition is Donald Trump's plans to impose a universal tariff of 20 per cent on all foreign imports ***PHOTO: PTI***

By contrast Trump has indicated that he would end this support and pressure Kyiv to accept peace on Moscow's terms. Rather than seeing a network of alliances as the basis of strength and influence, Trump sees these as a source of risk and a burden.

Defending friends

Many former officials, such as former national security advisor John Bolton, suspect that Trump would seek to leave Nato in a second term or weaken its effectiveness through tepid support. In Asia, Trump's recent comments that "Taiwan should pay us for defence. You know, we're no different than an insurance company" suggest a weakening of US commitment to the island.

For many observers these elections also matter because the US's ability to conduct a free, fair and undisputed election and the peaceful transfer of power is in question. From his first involvement in the Republican party primary process in 2016 Trump has never accepted the results of an election that he lost. What is more remarkable is that he has convinced a majority of Republican voters to side with him in asserting that the 2020 election was stolen, only a third believe the election was legitimate. When faith in the electoral process is so undermined it is difficult to see how the US can come together to be governed after the election.

For the Trump camp, however, there is a ready answer for this question. If elected, Project 2025, a document of policies prepared by a right-leaning thinktank, suggests that his administration would replace the top tier of Washington's bureaucracy with 50,000 officials who pledge loyalty to him over the constitution. It also suggests that a Trump administration would disband a myriad of federal agencies such as the departments of justice, energy, and education as well as the FBI and Federal Reserve and to use his newly claimed executive authority to impose his policy agenda.

Such measures are designed to enable Trump to introduce a raft of policies that many regard as authoritarian, such as the deportation of millions of "illegal aliens", using the National Guard and army, if necessary.The US experiment with democracy has fascinated and inspired the world since its inception in 1776. Never before, however, has it seemed in such jeopardy. The US is deeply divided on many fundamental questions, from taxation, immigration, abortion, trade, energy and environmental policy, and its role in the world.

For the first time these divisions seem more important to many electors than respect for their democratic institutions and traditions.

More fundamentally, many US citizens seem unable to accept the result of the democratic process and the subsequent legitimacy of the winner. Who wins the election and how the US is governed as a result, matters more now, to more people, than ever. *—The Conversation*

'Global climate finance reached $1.5T in 2022'

NEW YORK, 1 NOV

Global investment in combating and adapting to climate change reached nearly USD 1.5 trillion, doubling between 2018 and 2022, but it must increase at least fivefold by 2030 to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, according to a new study. The "Global Landscape of Climate Finance 2024: Insights for COP29" report, published by global think tank Climate Policy Initiative (CPI), said climate finance currently represents only 1 per cent of global GDP, far short of the required level. Emerging markets and developing economies (EMDEs) may need around 6.5 per cent of their GDP by 2030 to meet climate goals."While global climate finance has made some strides, a much more ambitious, cohesive, and effective approach is essential to address the vast funding gap," said Barbara Buchner, CPI"s Global Managing Director. —*PTI*

Zardari suffers foot fracture while deboarding plane

ISLAMABAD, 1 NOV

President Asif Ali Zardari has fractured his foot while deboarding an airplane upon his arrival at the Dubai International Airport. The incident occurred on Wednesday night. According to a statement from the President House, he was immediately taken to a hospital for treatment following the fall. The doctor placed his foot in a cast after a check-up. "The cast will remain on his foot for four weeks," the statement read. It added that President Zardari was sent home and advised complete rest. The Dawn reported that the 69-year-old president has had multiple health issues in recent years. In March 2023, he underwent an eye surgery in the United Arab Emirates. In 2022, he was admitted to Karachi's Dr Ziauddin Hospital for a week for treatment of a chest infection. —*PTI*

'Brat' named word of the year by Collins dictionary

NEW YORK, 1 NOV

Most have us have long moved on from "brat summer", when, sparked by Charli XCX's album of the same name, wearing slime green and embracing your inner messiness was on trend. But the lexicographers at Collins dictionary are still firmly in their brat era, naming it their 2024 word of the year. Though Collins already defined "brat" as "someone, especially a child", who "behaves badly or annoys you", it has been selected as word of the year because of its new definition: "characterised by a confident, independent, and hedonistic attitude". "'Brat' has become one of the most talked about words of 2024," Collins said. It "resonated with people globally and 'brat summer' established itself as an aesthetic and a way of life" —*PTI*

PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA

Rapper Young Thug pleads guilty to drug, gun charges

ATLANTA, 1 NOV

Rapper Young Thug, born Jeffery Williams, pleaded guilty in Atlanta to gang, drug, and gun charges, ending a prolonged trial with multiple delays. The 33-year-old Grammy winner received a 40-year sentence, with the first five years commuted to time served, followed by 15 years of probation. If he completes probation without violations, the remaining 20 years will be further commuted. Young Thug must stay out of metro Atlanta for the first decade, except for family emergencies, and perform anti-gang outreach four times yearly. —*PTI*

Trump lacks respect for women: Harris

Kamala attacks Trump saying he will ban abortion

ARIZONA, 1 NOV

Vice President Kamala Harris strongly criticised former President Donald Trump for his remarks on women, stating that Trump doesn't believe women should have the autonomy to make decisions about their own bodies. Harris further emphasised that Trump disregards women's freedom and intelligence to make decisions in their best interest.

Notably, Trump had said during a campaign in Wisconsin that he would "protect" women. "I want to protect the people. I want to protect the women of our country. I want to protect women... I'm going to do it whether the women like it or not," The Washington Post had reported.

Sharing a post on X, Harris wrote, "Did you hear what Trump said yesterday? That he will do what he wants, whether the women like it or not."

"And remember how we got here. Donald Trump hand selected three members of the US Supreme Court with the intention that they would undo the protections of Roe v. Wade and they did as he intended. Now in America, one in three women lives in a state with the Trump abortion ban... And Donald Trump is not done. Did everyone hear what he said yesterday? That he will do what he wants whether the women like it or not."

—*PTI*

'WH edited Prez's garbage remarks'

White House press officials altered the official transcript of a call in which President Joe Biden appeared to take a swipe at Donald Trump's supporters, drawing objections from the federal workers who document such remarks, according to two officials and an email. Biden created an uproar earlier this week with his remarks to Latino activists responding to racist comments at a Trump rally made by the comedian Tony Hinchcliffe, who referred to the US island territory of Puerto Rico as a "floating island of garbage."

Trump's remarks on women sparks row

He vows to protect women 'whether they like it or not'

WASHINGTON DC, 1 NOV

Republican candidate Donald Trump found himself at the centre of a firestorm on Thursday over sexist comments he made at a campaign rally — the latest in a string of lewd and contemptuous comments about women from the former president and his surrogates.

"I want to protect the women of our country... whether the women like it or not," Trump said on Wednesday, recalling his stand on abortion. The remarks drew condemnation from women across the political spectrum led by his White House rival Kamala Harris.

The Democratic vice president called the statement "very offensive to women", just days before an election that experts say could shake out more than ever before along gender lines, with Trump performing strongly with male voters.

It is not the first time the 78-year-old billionaire has come under fire for his approach to women, and his latest remarks are not even the most offensive.

In 2016, there was worldwide revulsion when just days before his election showdown with Hillary Clinton, a video emerged of Trump boasting of using his celebrity to "grab women".

Despite an outcry, the property tycoon still went on to defeat Clinton.

For his third presidential campaign, again against a woman after losing to Joe Biden in 2020, the Republican sought to project an image of strength. During the campaign, Donald Trump has called Kamala Harris "mentally retarded" and "crazy", suggesting she would become "a play toy" for other world leaders if elected. He has also mocked her full-throated laugh. He has implied that Kamala, a former senator, owed her professional success to sexual favours.

Meanwhile, Hindu American groups have applauded Republican presidential candidate and former president Donald Trump for promising to protect the human rights of Hindus across the world, including the US and Bangladesh and protect them from the "anti-religion agenda of the radical left.

—*Dawn*

Israel hits Beirut with airstrikes overnight

JERUSALEM, 1 NOV

Israel's air force pounded Beirut's southern suburb of Dahiyeh overnight, destroying dozens of buildings in several neighbourhoods, Lebanon's state-run National News Agency said on Friday.

Recently, Israel has intensified its airstrikes on the northeastern city of Baalbek and nearby villages, as well as different parts of southern Lebanon. International mediators are ramping up efforts to halt the wars in Lebanon and the Gaza Strip, circulating new proposals to wind down the regional conflict. Lebanon said more than 2,800 people have been killed and 13,000 wounded since 8 October, 2023, when Hezbollah began firing rockets almost daily into Israel, drawing retaliation.

The death toll from more than a year of the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza has passed 43,000, Palestinian officials reported this week, without distinguishing between civilians and combatants. The war began after Hamas-led militants stormed into Israel on 7 October, 2023, killing some 1,200 people — mostly civilians. Meanwhile, Lebanon's Health Ministry says an Israeli airstrike on a mountain town overlooking Beirut has killed three people and wounded five.

On 6 October, an Israeli strike in Qamatiyeh killed six people, including three children, Lebanon's Health Ministry said. —*PTI*

On 6 October, an Israeli strike in Qamatiyeh killed six people, including three children, Lebanon's Health Ministry said **PHOTO: PTI**

TENSIONS ESCALATE

US calls on China to use its sway over Russia, N Korea amid row

This satellite image shows North Korea digging along a road in the demilitarised zone with South Korea **PHOTO: X**

WASHINGTON, 1 NOV

The US and South Korea have called on China to use its influence over Russia and North Korea to prevent escalation after Pyongyang sent thousands of troops to Russia to aid Moscow's war against Ukraine. Beijing has so far stayed quiet.

In a rare meeting earlier this week, three top US diplomats met with China's ambassador to the United States to emphasise concerns and urge China to use its sway with North Korea to try to curtail the cooperation, according to a State Department official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Thursday said that the sides had "a robust conversation just this week" and that China knows U.S. expectations are that "they'll use the influence that they have to work to curb these activities."

"But I think this is a demand signal that's coming not just from us, but from countries around the world," he said at a news conference in Washington with Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and their South Korean counterparts.

The US says 8,000 North Korean soldiers are in Russia near Ukraine's border and are preparing to help the Kremlin fight against Ukrainian troops in the coming days. China has yet to publicly comment on the move.

—*PTI*

Russia says $20 decillion fine against Google is 'symbolic'

The Kremlin has said that Russia's huge fines imposed on Google were largely symbolic and designed to spur the US tech company into lifting restrictions on Russian YouTube channels. The total sum of legal claims has reached USD20 decillion, according to the Russian news outlet RBK, a figure higher than all the money in the world combined. "I can't even pronounce this number, but it is more likely imbued with symbolism," the Kremlin spokesperson, said.

—*Guardian*

Botswana Prez Masisi concedes defeat in election

GABORONE, 1 NOV

Botswana President Mogweetsi Masisi conceded defeat in the general election Friday, in a seismic moment of change for the county that ended the ruling party's 58 years in power since independence from Britain in 1966.

Masisi's concession came before final results were announced, with his Botswana Democratic Party trailing in fourth place in the parliamentary elections.

The main opposition Umbrella for Democratic Change held a strong lead in the partial results, making its candidate, Duma Boko, the favorite to become president of a southern African country that is one of the world's biggest producers of mined diamonds.

Masisi said he had called Boko to inform him he was conceding defeat. —*PTI*

PHOTO: X

Hasina's coalition party office set ablaze after clash

DHAKA, 1 NOV

Bangladesh's ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's coalition, Jatiya Party, central office in Dhaka, has been set on fire after clashes on Thursday night. The office was partly damaged, the witnesses said.

The Jatiya Party, founded by late President Hussain Muhammad Ershad, was a part of the Bangladesh Awami League-led Grand Alliance, and participated previous three general elections despite major party BNP boycotted.

Protesters against Sheikh Hasina were angered when Jatiya Party announced that it would hold a rally in Dhaka on Saturday. Clashes erupted when protesters carrying the Chhatra Sramik Janata banner marched with a torch procession in front of the Jatiya Party's central office in Kakrail area, the heart of the capital Dhaka.

The fire service went to the spot and extinguished the fire. When a large number of protestors went in front of the Jatiya Party left the office. Protesters vandalized Jatiya Party offices, pulled down signboard and smeared ink on party founder Ershad's picture on the wall, the witnesses said.

Police and Army were deployed in front of the Jatiya Party office after the incident on Friday. —*ANI*

5 schoolchildren among 7 killed in Pakistan blast

KARACHI, 1 NOV

At least seven people, including five schoolchildren and a policeman, were killed while 17 others were injured on Friday in a remote-controlled blast targeting a police van in Pakistan's restive Balochistan province.

The blast occurred at 8.35 am near a girl's high school at the Civil Hospital Chowk of the Mastung district media reports said. "It was an IED used in the blast, and the target apparently was a police mobile parked near the school," Kalat Division Commissioner Naeem Bazai said. —*PTI*

Spain appeals for aid as floods claim 158 lives

MADRID, 1 NOV

Three days after historic flash floods swept through several towns in southern Valencia, in eastern Spain, the initial shock was giving way to anger, frustration and a wave of solidarity on Friday.The residents turned to media for help.

"This is a disaster. There are a lot of elderly people who don't have medicine. There are children who don't have food. We don't have milk; we don't have water. We have no access to anything," a resident of Alfafar, one of the most affected towns in south Valencia, told state television station TVE. "No one even came to warn us on the first day."

PHOTO: PTI

So far 158 bodies have been recovered — 155 in Valencia, two in the Castilla La Mancha region and one more in Andalusia — after Spain's deadliest natural disaster in living memory. —*PTI*

Boeing row: Workers to vote on deal to end strike

SEATTLE, 1 NOV

The Union representing striking Boeing factory workers says members will vote Monday on a new contract offer from the company that provides slightly bigger wage increases than an offer that was rejected last week. Boeing's offer would raise wages 38 per cent over four years, or a compounded increase of about 43per cent the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers said.The strike began 13 September when more than 94 per cent of workers voting rejected an offer of 25 per cent over four years. —*PTI*

AMID US POLLS

Musk's posts see sudden boost since July

SYDNEY, 1 NOV

On 13 July, shortly after Donald Trump was targeted by an assassination attempt, Elon Musk, the billionaire owner of X (formerly Twitter), tweeted to his more than 200 million followers:

I fully endorse President Trump and hope for his rapid recovery.

Musk's efforts to influence who wins next week's US presidential election have continued. For example, over the past three months, he has donated more than US$100 million to a political action committee called America PAC that's promoting Trump.

But our new research (currently available in preprint form) indicates Musk may be wielding influence in other more subtle ways as well. However, the platform's increasing opacity to researchers makes this difficult to say for certain.

Shortly after Musk endorsed Trump's presidential campaign, there was a statistically anomalous boost in engagement with his X account. Suddenly, his posts were getting much higher views, retweets and likes in comparison to other prominent political accounts on the platform.

This raises suspicions as to whether Musk has tweaked the platform's algorithm to increase the reach of his posts in advance of the US presidential election. It also demonstrates the problems with how social media platforms like X are currently regulated around the world. —*PTI*

Musk agrees he's into politics to colonise Mars

Elon Musk responded to an X post that claimed he is becoming "more active in politics" to reach his goal of reaching Mars. Musk has set his sights on Mars, where he wants to establish a human colony. He responded saying, True adding that "I think Trump winning makes a big difference in humanity getting to Mars and making life multiplanetary. This might one day save life as we know it —*Agencies*

PHOTO: PTI

1 held in AP Dhillon's house shooting, 1 flees to India

ONTARIO, 1 NOV

In connection with a shooting incident near Punjabi singer AP Dhillon's residence in Colwood, British Columbia, Canadian police have arrested a 25-year-old man, Abjeet Kingra from Winnipeg. Kingra faces charges of firing a weapon with intent and arson after gunshots were fired and two vehicles set ablaze on 30 September, according to CBC News.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) reported that Kingra was apprehended in Ontario and is scheduled for a court appearance on Friday. Meanwhile, police believe a 23-year-old suspect, Vikram Sharma, has fled to India. An arrest warrant has been issued, and police have shared details to aid in his identification, as no photograph is available. He was last known to reside in Winnipeg. Police have stated that they do not have an image of Sharma, but specific details to help identify him have been released. —*Agencies*

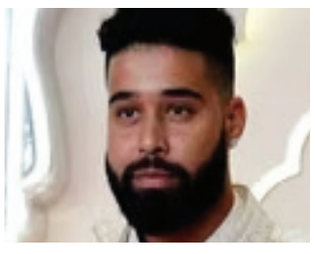


PHOTO: PTI

India & Saudi to explore tie up in fintech, hydrogen

NEW DELHI, 1 NOV

India and Saudi Arabia are exploring collaboration in emerging fields like fintech, new technologies, energy efficiency, clean hydrogen, textiles and mining to further boost trade and investment ties, an official statement said on Friday. These areas were discussed during the recent visit of Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal to Riyadh. He co-chaired the second meeting of the economy and investment committee under the India-Saudi Strategic Partnership Council (SPC) along with Minister of Energy, Saudi Arabia, Abdulaziz bin Salman Al-Saud on 30 October in Riyadh. During the Future Investment Initiative (FII) event, the minister urged global investors to seize emerging opportunities in India, particularly in high-growth sectors such as artificial intelligence, renewable energy, digital infrastructure and advanced manufacturing. India is the second largest trade partner for Saudi Arabia whereas Saudi Arabia is India's fourth largest trading partner. *—PTI*

Maldives estimates securing MVR 1.6B aid from India

NEW DELHI, 1 NOV

Maldivian government has estimated that India will provide MVR 1.6 billion in grant aid to the archipelago nation in 2025, constituting 72 per cent of the total foreign aid it will receive from friendly countries, according to media reports. The estimates were made in the proposed State Budget 2025 submitted to the Parliament on Thursday, news portal Adhadhu.com reported. In the proposed budget, President Mohamed Muizzu-led administration projected a total of Maldivian Rufiyaa (MVR) 2.25 billion as international grant aid. Of this, India is expected to provide 72 per cent, amounting to MVR 1.6 billion (approximately USD 104 million). India has provided "substantial" financial help to the Maldives this year, the report said. *—PTI*

India Yamaha Motor names Itaru Otani as Chairman

NEW DELHI, 1 NOV

India Yamaha Motor on Friday said it has appointed Itaru Otani as the new Chairman. Otani brings over three decades of experience with Yamaha Motor Company, having held key leadership roles across global markets, including Australia, Brazil and Japan, the company said in a statement. Prior to this role, he served as Chief General Manager, leading the Land Mobility Business Operations based out of Japan, it added. "The aspirations of Indian consumers are evolving rapidly, and we see incredible opportunities to bring in products that blend Yamaha's global expertise with the unique needs and desires of Indian riders," Otani said. *—PTI*

In H1, production of iron, manganese, aluminium rises

NEW DELHI, 1 NOV

The production of iron ore, manganese ore and primary aluminium increased in the first six months of the ongoing financial year, government data showed. As per provisional data, production of iron ore rose 5.5 per cent to 135 million tonne (MT) in April-September FY25 over 128 MT in the year-ago period. Output of manganese ore increased by 6.2 per cent to 1.7 MT in April-September from 1.6 MT during the corresponding period of previous fiscal year, the mines ministry said in a statement. In the non-ferrous metal sector, primary aluminium production in April-September rose by 1.2 per cent to 20.90 lakh tonne (LT) from 20.66 LT in the year-ago period. Iron ore accounts for about 70 per cent of the total mineral production by value. India is the second largest aluminium producer, among top ten producers of refined copper. *—PTI*

Commercial LPG up ₹62 per cylinder, ATF price hiked 3%

Hike comes after 2 rounds of reduction to lowest price this year

NEW DELHI, 1 NOV

Jet fuel, or ATF, price on Friday was hiked by 3.3 per cent and rate of commercial LPG used in hotels and restaurants increased by Rs 62 per 19-kg cylinder in the monthly revision done in line with international oil price trends.

The aviation turbine fuel (ATF) price was increased by Rs 2,941.5 per kilolitre, or 3.3 per cent, to Rs 90,538.72 per kl in the national capital, according to state-owned fuel retailers.

The hike comes after two rounds of reduction that had taken the rates to their lowest this year.

ATF price on 1 October was cut by 6.3 per cent (Rs 5,883 per kl) and by Rs 4,495.5 per kl, or 4.58 per cent on 1 September.

The ATF rate in Mumbai was increased to Rs 84,642.91 per kl on Friday from Rs 81,866.13 previously.

Oil firms also increased the price of commercial LPG by Rs 62 to Rs 1,802 per 19-kg cylinder.

In four price reductions, rates were cut by Rs 148 per 19-kg cylinder and now in four rounds of increase, prices have gone up by Rs 156 **PHOTO: PTI**

This is the fourth straight monthly hike in commercial LPG prices. Prices were hiked by Rs 48.5 to Rs 1,740 on 1 October. Prior to that rates were increased by Rs 6.5 per cylinder on 1 August and by Rs 39 on 1 September. The four rounds of increase follow four monthly price reductions.

In four price reductions, rates were cut by Rs 148 per 19-kg cylinder and now in four rounds of increase, prices have gone up by Rs 156 per bottle.

Commercial LPG now costs Rs 1,754.50 per 19-kg cylinder in Mumbai, Rs 1,911.50 in Kolkata and Rs 1,964.50 in Chennai.

The rate of cooking gas used in domestic households, however, remained unchanged at Rs 803 per 14.2-kg cylinder. *—PTI*

DRIVEN BY GDP GROWTH

FPI marks highest monthly sales at ₹94,017 cr in Oct

NEW DELHI, 1 NOV

Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have again turned net sellers in Indian stock markets in October, after having remained net buyers in the past four months on a trot.

Important to mention is that the total stocks they sold in India in October were the highest-ever in a month's time, data showed.

They offloaded stocks worth Rs 94,017 crore in October, data made available by National Securities Depository Limited showed.

In June, July, August, and September, they bought stocks worth Rs 26,565 crore, Rs 32,365 crore, Rs 7,320 crore, and Rs 57,724 crore, respectively.

FPIs had fuelled the bull run in the stock market, barring the latest slump. As per definition, Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI) involves an investor buying foreign financial assets.

Sensex has fallen from its all-time high of 85,978 points, to now trading at 79,389 points. The recent sessions have been bearish for the indices, attributable to fund outflows and lower-than-expected Q2 earnings of India Inc.

The recent gains in the indices, let's say over the past three months, were driven by robust GDP growth, controlled inflation, strong domestic liquidity, and favourable monsoon conditions. FPI activity in June and July was influenced by the election results, as the formation of the new government. *—ANI*

CROSSES $700B MARK

India now 4th largest country in forex reserves

NEW DELHI, 1 NOV

With its growing economic strength, India has achieved the significant feat of joining the ranks of the world's largest foreign exchange reserves, securing the 4th position globally after China, Japan, and Switzerland.

India's economy is making new records every day. While there was a time when India's economy was considered a part of the 'Fragile Five'. But India's rise from the "Fragile Five" to the fastest-growing major economy is an example for other developing countries.

Today, India has not only become the fifth-largest economy in the world but has also set a new record in terms of foreign exchange reserves. For the first time in history, India's foreign exchange reserves have reached above USD 700 billion.

India's foreign exchange reserves however fell for the fourth consecutive week reaching an all-time high last month.

In the week ending 25 October, the forex reserves declined by USD 3.463 billion to USD 684.805 billion, according to RBI.

PHOTO: FREEPIK

In the three preceding weeks, reserves dropped by USD 3.7 billion, USD 10.7 billion, and USD 2.16 billion, respectively, the data showed.

Reserves had reached a record high of USD 704.885 billion before this recent decline, likely due to RBI intervention aimed at preventing a sharp depreciation of the Rupee. \

RBI data shows that India's foreign currency assets (FCA), the largest component of forex reserves, stand at USD 593.751 billion. Gold reserves currently amount to USD 68.527 billion, according to data. *—PTI*

Mahindra & Suzuki record highest sales

NEW DELHI, 1 NOV

Mahindra & Mahindra on Friday reported its best- ever monthly sales in October with 96,648 units, marking a 20 per cent year-on- year increase.

In the utility vehicles segment, it sold 54,504 units in the domestic market, a growth of 25 per cent over 43,708 units in the year-ago period, Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) said.

Overall passenger vehicle wholesales, including exports, stood at 55,571 units.

Meanwhile, Automaker Maruti Suzuki India reported its highest ever monthly sales at 2,06,434 units, a 4 per cent year-on-year growth over the same month last year. MSI said its exports stood at 33,168 units over 21,951 units in the same month last year.

Toyota Kirloskar Motor sales up 41% at 30,845 units

Toyota Kirloskar Motor on Friday reported a 41 per cent rise in total sales of 30,845 units as compared to 21,879 units in the same month last year. Domestic sales stood at 28,138 units while exports were at 2,707 units last month, Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) said in a statement.

Royal Enfield bike sales up 31 pc at 1,10,574 units

Eicher Motors Ltd on Friday reported a 31 per cent rise in total sales of its Royal Enfield motorcycles at 1,10,574 units. It stood at 84,435 units in the year-ago period, according to a filing.

Maruti Suzuki reported its highest ever sales at 2,06,434 units **PHOTO: PTI**

Hyundai Motor India sales up 2 pc at 70,078 units

Hyundai Motor India Ltd (HMIL) on Friday reported a 2 per cent increase in total sales at 70,078 units as compared to 68,728 units in the same month last year. Exports were up 6.7 per cent at 14,510 units as compared to 13,600 units in the year-ago month, it added.

JSW MG Motor India sales up 31 pc at 7,045 units

JSW MG Motor India on Friday reported a 31 per cent year-on-year rise in wholesales at 7,045 units

The newly introduced electric crossover utility vehicle Windsor clocked 3,116 units within the first month of its launch, it added.

Tata Motors total sales down at 82,682 units

Tata Motors Ltd on Friday reported a marginal decline in its domestic and international sales at 82,682 units in October as compared to 82,954 units in the same month last year.

Tata Motors said its total commercial vehicle sales last month stood at 34,259 units, down from 34,317 units in October 2023. *—PTI*

Ola Electric registrations up by 74%

Ola Electric Mobility Ltd on Friday reported a 74 per cent rise in vehicle registrations at 41,605 units in October 2024 as compared to the same month last year. The company sold over 50,000 units in October 2024, Ola Electric said in a statement. The registration numbers are as per Vahan data, it added. The company said it has started a campaign to double its company-owned service network to 1,000 centres by December 2024. Also, as part of the network partner programme, it will onboard 10,000 partners across sales and service by the end of 2025.

—PTI

Sensex rises 448 pts, Nifty rallies above 24,300 in Muhurat session

MUMBAI, 1 NOV

Benchmark Sensex rose by 335.06 points, or 0.42 per cent, to settle at 79,724.12 in a special Muhurat trading session on Friday, starting the new Samvat 2081 on a high note.

Stock exchanges BSE and NSE conducted a special Muhurat trading session from 1800 hrs to 1900 hrs on Friday to mark the beginning of the new Samvat Year 2081.

In the last Samvat 2080, which ended on Thursday, the BSE Sensex jumped 14,484.38 points, or 22.31 per cent, and the Nifty climbed 4,780 points, or 24.60 per cent.

Investors' wealth rose Rs 124.42 lakh crore during the period to Rs 4,44,71,429.92 crore (USD 5.29 trillion).

Muhurat trading is a one-hour symbolic trading session conducted by stock exchanges on the occasion of Diwali, marking the start of the new Samvat year and new books of accounts by traders.

Investors' wealth rose Rs 124.42 lakh crore during the period to Rs 4,44,71,429.92 crore (USD 5.29 trillion) **PHOTO: FREEPIK**

On Friday, Sensex opened on a high note and stayed in positive territory throughout the special session on buying in banking, auto, and oil & gas shares.

Among major Sensex gainers, Mahindra & Mahindra rose the most by 3.29 per cent. Adani Ports gained 1.26 per cent, Tata Motors by 1.14 per cent, and Axis Bank by 0.92 per cent. Global markets were mixed as European shares rose in early trade. *—PTI*

GST collection grows 9% to ₹1.87 L cr in Oct

NEW DELHI, 1 NOV

Gross GST collection grew 9 per cent to over Rs 1.87 lakh crore in October on higher revenues from domestic transactions. The Central GST collection stood at Rs 33,821 crore, State GST at Rs 41,864 crore, Integrated IGST at Rs 99,111 crore and cess at Rs 12,550 crore. The total gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue grew 8.9 per cent to over Rs 1.87 lakh crore last month. In October 2023, the mop-up was at Rs 1.72 lakh crore. GST from domestic transactions grew 10.6 per cent to Rs 1.42 lakh crore, while tax on imports rose about 4 per cent to Rs 45,096 crore during October. —PTI

India's power consumption rises marginally to 140.4B units

MUMBAI, 1 NOV

India's power consumption rose marginally by about one per cent to 140.47 billion units (BU) in October compared to a year ago, mainly due to heavier base effect.

In the year-ago period, the power consumption grew by over 22 per cent to 139.44 BU from 113.94 BU in October 2022.

The highest supply in a day (peak power demand met) dipped to 219.22 GW in October 2024 from 221.53 GW in the year-ago month.

The peak power demand touched an all-time high of about 250 GW in May this year. The previous all-time high peak power demand of 243.27 GW was recorded in September 2023.

The ministry also estimated that peak power demand may hit 260 GW this summer.

PHOTO: FREEPIK

Noting that October 2024 was the warmest in many decades as per official data, the experts opined that power demand as well as consumption showed marginal growth mainly due to a higher base effect. Demand for power and consumption will continue to be steady in the coming days due to good commercial and industrial activities. *—PTI*

NITI Aayog's 'halt sulphur reduction' call a concern

NEW DELHI, 1 NOV

Congress leader and former Union environment minister Jairam Ramesh on Friday said sulphur dioxide emissions from power plants contributed significantly to air pollution and any argument suggesting that such emissions were of no concern to public health in India was ridiculous.

His remarks came over a media report, which claimed the NITI Aayog had proposed halting the fitting of equipment to cut sulphur emissions at coal-fired power plants.

However, there was no official word from the NITI Aayog.

In a post on X, Ramesh said India was the world's largest emitter of sulphur dioxide and these emissions from power plants contributed significantly to air pollution.

"A decision had been taken earlier that the power plants must install fluoride gas desulpharisers. First, a deadline of 2017 was fixed.

This was later extended to 2026. Now it appears that the all-knowing NITI Aayog wants the deadline scrapped altogether," the Congress general secretary in-charge communications said.

"To argue that sulphur dioxide emissions are of no concern to public health in India is ridiculous -- especially at a time when the consequences of pollution are so visibly evident across India's cities," Ramesh said. *—PTI*

4 MORE STORES SOON

Apple sets all-time revenue record in India

NEW DELHI, 1 NOV

iPhone maker Apple has set an all-time revenue record in India and observed a double-digit growth in iPad sales in the country in the September 2024 quarter, senior officials of the company said on Friday.

The company reported an over 6 per cent growth in total net sales to USD 94.93 billion during the reported period from USD 89.49 billion a year ago.

"We also set September quarter segment revenue records in the Americas, Europe, and the rest of Asia Pacific, as well as in a large number of countries, including the United States, Brazil, Mexico, France, the UK, Korea, Malaysia, Thailand, Saudi Arabia and the UAE, and we continue to be excited by the enthusiasm we're seeing in India, where we set an all-time revenue record," Apple CEO Tim Cook said during the company's earnings call.

Apple CEO Tim Cook **PHOTO: PTI**

In early October, Apple announced plans to open four more stores in India, located in Pune, Bengaluru, Delhi-NCR and Mumbai.

Apple's revenue from sales of products grew by 4.12 per cent during the reported quarter to USD 69.95 billion from USD 67.18 billion in the September 2023 quarter with iPhone sales growing by about 5.5 per cent to USD 46.22 billion from USD 43.8 billion on a year-on-year.

The services sales grew faster than product sales at around 12 per cent on a YoY basis and reached an all-time high at USD 24.97 billion during the quarter from USD 22.31 billion in the September 2023 quarter.

The iPad sales of the company grew by about 8 per cent to USD 6.95 billion in the September 2024 quarter against USD 6.44 billion. *—PTI*

Paris Masters QFs: Humbert knocks out Alcaraz

PARIS, 1 NOV

Frenchman Ugo Humbert harnessed the energy of the home crowd and produced one of his best career performances in beating Carlos Alcaraz 6-1, 3-6, 7-5 to reach the quarterfinals of the Paris Masters. A flurry of forehand and backhand winners had Alcaraz 5-0 down in a first set so one-sided that Alcaraz a four-time Grand Slam winner ironically waved his racket and grinned to the crowd after holding in the sixth game. "There were some incredible points, I think I have just experienced one of my greatest moments on a tennis court," Humbert said. "I don't want it to end here." The second-seeded Alcaraz controlled the second set but, after missing chances during the third set, served to stay in the match. The crowd jeered a replayed point but Alcaraz was unperturbed and held comfortably for 5-5.—*PTI*

Lewis cuts loose as WI beat England by 8 wickets

NORTH SOUND, 1 NOV

Evin Lewis hit four times as many sixes as the entire England team in a commanding innings of 94 which led the West Indies to an eight-wicket win in the rain-affected first one-day international. First-time captain Liam Livingstone hit two sixes in a top score of 48 in his team's under-par total of 209. That was England's best performance as it was bowled out in 45.1 overs on a tricky pitch on which only Lewis flourished. The left-handed Lewis hit eight sixes in his innings of only 69 balls but was out 13 runs before the West Indies reached their Duckworth-Lewis System revised total of 157 to lead the three-match ODI series. No overs were lost when rain extended the interval between innings but the West Indies innings was reduced by 15 overs after a lengthy rain break after the 15th over. They already were in command, thanks to Lewis. —*PTI*

PHOTO: X

Bogey-free Pranavi is tied 29th in Riyadh

DUBAI, 1 NOV

Indian golfer Pranavi Urs opened with a bogey-free 2-under 70, which placed her T-29 at the end of the first round of the Aramco Team Series presented by PIF – Riyadh.Pranavi, who got into the draw late, is coming off a fair season, during which she has had four Top-10s, and was Tied-15th in her home event, the Women's Indian Open last week.She started from the tenth and had one birdie on each side of the Riyadh Golf Course. Diksha Dagar was T-67 at 1-over 73 with three birdies and four bogeys as she also began on the tenth tee.—*PTI*

Hana maintains lead after 2nd round of LPGA

SHIGA, 1 NOV

Hana Wakimoto shot a 4-under 68 on Friday to maintain her lead after the second round of the LPGA's Toto Japan Classic.The Japanese player shot a 63 in the opening round and continued to set the pace with a 13-under-par total of 131 after 36 holes. Yealimi Noh of the United States and Ariya Jutanugarn of Thailand were two strokes off the lead after the second round. Noh shot 65 and Jutanugarn carded a 66. Rio Takeda of Japan was three behind after a 65. Canada's Brooke Henderson shot 71 at 3-under, 10 strokes behind. Minjee Lee of Australia shot 75 and was 11 strokes behind Wakimoto. The Japan tournament concludes a four-event Asian swing for the LPGA Tour that included events in China, South Korea, and Malaysia. —*PTI*

India hand NZ control after a batting flop show on day 1

Jadeja (5/65) and Sundar (4/81) did their job to perfection

NEW DELHI, 1 NOV

Ravindra Jadeja celebrates a wicket with his teammates PHOTO: PTI

India's batters lost the plot in a matter of 20 minutes, leaving the side at a jittery 86/4 after Ravindra Jadeja and Washington Sundar gave the hosts the early bragging rights by dismissing New Zealand for 235 on an eventful day one of the third and final Test here on Friday.

Jadeja (5/65) and Sundar (4/81) did their job to perfection but India's batting continued to be a weak link as the side lost three wickets in the space of eight balls, starting with Yashasvi Jaiswal's (30) inexplicable reverse slog sweep.

With 314 wickets so far, Jadeja is now behind Harbhajan Singh (417 wickets) in the all-time list.

India, who lost by eight wickets in Bengaluru and by 113 runs in Pune, are in a desperate position to remain alive in the race to the World Test Championship final but the contest seems to be slipping away.

If Virat Kohli (4) missed an innocuous full toss to be cleaned up in the first innings at Pune was an aberration, the batting maestro ran himself out in the ending stages of the first day's play which left India staring at a mountain to climb.

India's rapid fall displayed their fast eroding confidence with the bat as Rohit Sharma (18) too was among those who fell without making a significant dent.

In between the loss of the team's batting pillars, Jaiswal and Shubman Gill (31 not out) forged a 53-run stand for the second wicket before the closing stage collapse.

Rohit, playing only his second Test on his home turf of the Wankhede Stadium, dazzled with a few attractive strokes to get off the blocks quickly but failed to make the most of a reprieve.

Stumps India 86 for 4 (Gill 31*, Jaiswal 30, Ajaz 2-33) trail New Zealand 235 (Mitchell 82, Young 71, Jadeja 5-65, Washington 4-81) by 149 runs. —*PTI*

INDIA A TOUR OF AUSTRALIA

Sudharsan and Padikkal rebuild India A with 50s

MACKAY, 1 NOV

PHOTO: PTI

Rising youngsters Sai Sudharsan and Devdutt Padikkal struck fighting fifties after Mukesh Kumar's searing six-wicket haul to put India A in command with a 120-run lead against Australia A on day two of their first 'Unofficial Test' here on Friday.

Mukesh stole the show, claiming 6/46 to help India A restrict Australia A to 195 in their first innings but despite the Bengal seamer's heroic efforts, the hosts secured a crucial 88-run lead. The visitors had scored 107 in their first essay. India A once again suffered a jittery start in their second innings with skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad (5) and fellow opener Abhimanyu Easwaran (12) getting out cheaply to have India down to 30/2 in 8.5 overs.

Gaikwad, who fell for a golden duck in the first innings, this time nicked Fergus O'Neill to second slip where Cameron Bancroft took a low catch. While Easwaran, who had notched up four consecutive first-class centuries to earn a spot in the senior team as cover for skipper Rohit Sharma for the upcoming Test series against Australia, once again recorded a single-digit score, this time getting run out while backing up for Sai Sudharsan.

Brief Scores

India A 107 and 208/2; 64 overs (Sai Sudharsan 96 batting, Devdutt Padikkal 80 batting).Australia A 195; 62.4 overs (Nathan McSweeney 39; Mukesh Kumar 6/46, Prasidh Krishna 3/59). —*PTI*

BORDER-GAVASKAR TROPHY

India cancels intra-squad match to prioritise net practice

NEW DELHI, 1 NOV

Team India PHOTO: PTI

India has decided to cancel a planned three-day intra-squad match with the 'A' side during the upcoming Test tour of Australia as the team management wants to focus on additional net practice to prepare for the marquee five-match showdown starting November 22 in Perth.

India was scheduled to begin their tour of Australia with a closed-door warm-up match against the Ruturaj Gaikwad-led India A at the WACA in Perth from 15 to 17 November. India A is currently in Australia for an unofficial Test series. However, PTI has learned that head coach Gautam Gambhir and some senior players want more time in the nets instead.

Rohit Sharma and his men will head to Australia after a shocking home series loss to New Zealand. Vying for a third straight Test series victory in Australia, the tourists will face added pressure, as a place in the World Test Championship final is also at stake. It is understood that since the bounce of the WACA center strip resembles that of the Perth Stadium track, all top-order batters would prefer more time in the middle.

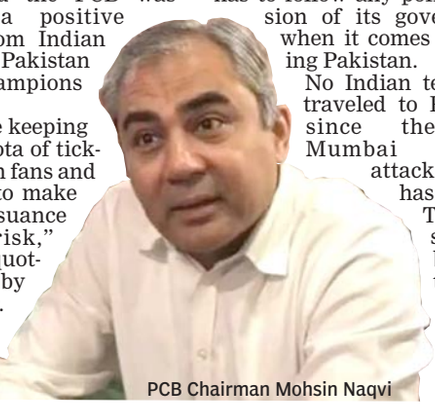
An intra-squad match might not work in that scenario as if a batter gets out cheaply, then he might not immediately get a chance to bat again on the center strip.

This marks a change from India's last two tours of Australia when the side played practice games ahead of the main series.

In the lead-up to the 2018-19 series, the 'Men in Blue' played a four-day match against Cricket Australia XI. For the 2020-21 tour, they started the red-ball leg with a three-day game against Australia A. —*PTI*

PCB assures quick visa issuance to Indian fans

LAHORE, 1 NOV



PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi

PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi, who is also the Federal Interior Minister, on Friday assured a brisk visa issuance policy for Indian fans wanting to visit Pakistan for the ICC Champions Trophy early next year.

He made the assurances during a meeting with a group of Sikh pilgrims from the United States.

Naqvi said the PCB was expecting a positive response from Indian fans to visit Pakistan for the Champions Trophy.

"We will be keeping a special quota of tickets for Indian fans and we will try to make the visa issuance policy brisk," Naqvi was quoted as saying by a newspaper.

Naqvi said that the PCB would like to see Indian fans visit Pakistan and watch the Indian and Pakistan match in Lahore.

Pakistan is scheduled to host the ICC mega event in February-March 2025 but until now the ICC has still not released the tournament schedule as they wait on confirmation if the Indian government would allow its team to travel to Pakistan for the event.

The BCCI has made it clear it has to follow any policy decision of its government when it comes to visiting Pakistan.

No Indian team has traveled to Pakistan since the 2008 Mumbai terror attack. There has been no Test series between the two countries since 2007. —*PTI*

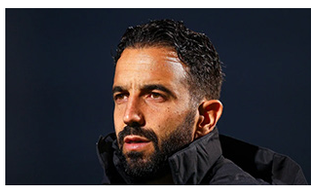


PHOTO: X

Man United hires Ruben Amorim

MANCHESTER, 1 NOV

Manchester United hired Ruben Amorim on Friday, gambling on a manager unproven in Europe's top leagues to turn around the fortunes of the fading English power.At age 39, Amorim, who has joined from Portuguese champion Sporting Lisbon, will be the youngest person to coach United since the 1960s and the sixth permanent manager since the retirement of Alex Ferguson in 2013.

Amorim will take charge on November 11, after completing his commitments to Sporting, and has signed a contract until June 2027, with United having an option of an additional year. —*PTI*

Norris expects a cleaner battle with Verstappen

SAO PAULO, 1 NOV

Formula One title contender Lando Norris said he expected a cleaner battle in Brazil this weekend after clashes with championship leader Max Verstappen in Mexico last Sunday.

The McLaren driver arrives 47 points behind Red Bull's triple champion after finishing second in Mexico City while Verstappen was handed two 10-second penalties for his driving and ended up sixth.

Sao Paulo hosts a sprint weekend, with points also to be won on Saturday.

"Max knows what he has to do. He knows that he did wrong, deep down he does. And it's for him to change, not for me," Norris told reporters at Interlagos on Thursday.

"I expect a cleaner battle than we had but it's not up to me, I don't make the rules and I don't decide the penalties. I just drive," he added.

Norris and Verstappen, friends away from the track, have clashed at the last two races with the Briton trying to overtake around the outside but being forced wide by the champion's aggressive defending.

In Texas, it was Norris who received a penalty but in Mexico a week later the stewards found Verstappen to have gone too far -- literally.

Norris said the stewards had a difficult job but had done it well in Mexico.

"I want clean, fair racing. It's what I do. It's what I provide and how I race. It's how I've always raced in my career," said the Briton. —*PTI*

India to compete in 16-team ITTF WC

LAUSANNE, 1 NOV

PHOTO: @INDIA_ALLSPORTS

India will compete in the second edition of the ITTF Mixed Team World Cup for the Guoliang-Sörling Trophy along with 15 other teams.

The International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) on Friday unveiled the elite 16-team line-up for the tournament scheduled to be held in Chengdu, China from December 1-8. The hosts China are the defending champions.

The other 14 teams to compete are -- Australia, Canada, Chinese Taipei, Egypt, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Japan, South Korea, Poland, Romania, Singapore, Sweden and the United States of America (USA).

The tournament will have a three-stage format, with Stage 1 consisting of 16 teams divided into four groups of four.

The highest-ranked sides have been placed in different groups, whereas the remaining teams have been drawn two at a time in seeding order after a snake system. Every group will be competing in a complete round-robin format.

As for Stage 2, the top two sides from every Stage 1 group will advance and form a single eight-team group, competing in another round-robin format. However, there will be a strategic variation, as the sides that have already faced each other in Stage 1 won't clash in this round, while their previous results will get carried forward. —*PTI*

KASPAROV DOESN'T SEE GUKESH-LIREN CONTEST AS A WORLD C'SHIP MATCH

NEW DELHI, 1 NOV

Russian chess legend Garry Kasparov doesn't consider the upcoming World Championship match between India's D Gukesh and China's Ding Liren as a contest between the world's top two players in the absence of five-time champion Magnus Carlsen.

Kasparov believes with Carlsen, who hails from Norway, opting out of defending his title last year, the long line of world champions has come to an end.

"My hottest take is that I don't treat this as a World Championship match. For me, a World Championship match was always a match for the title of the best player in the world," Kasparov said on a YouTube show for the St Louis Chess Club.

"I think the history of the World Championship matches started here in St Louis when Steinitz faced Zukertort (when Wilhelm Steinitz faced Johannes Zukertort in the 1886 World Chess Championship match) and ended with Magnus Carlsen.

"There were 16 World Champions. You could call them, at every given moment, the best players in the world. They took the title by beating the best players (in the world at that time)," Kasparov added.

Kasparov, however, feels Gukesh is a clear favorite going into the contest.

"With all due respect, Ding Liren playing Gukesh is an important event. It's a FIDE event. I think Gukesh is my favorite, because of the way Ding Liren has been playing lately, it's kind of a shadow of the old Ding Liren we all remember. —*PTI*

IPL SEASON 2025

Agartala may become KKR's second home ground

AGARTALA, 1 NOV

The under-construction international cricket stadium at Narsingarh in Tripura could become Kolkata Knight Riders' second home ground for the 2025 IPL season PHOTO: PTI

The under-construction international cricket stadium at Narsingarh in Tripura could become Kolkata Knight Riders' second home ground for the 2025 IPL season at Narsingarh began way back in 2017 with an estimated cost of Rs. 185 crore but the stadium is not yet ready.

"IPL chairman Arun Kumar Dhumal recently visited the proposed international stadium at Narsingarh on the outskirts of the state capital. He said if the stadium's is ready before February next year, it could be made second home ground of KKR or some else other state will get the benefit," TCA secretary Subarta Dey told PTI. "Since it is a golden chance to host IPL matches at the proposed stadium, we have summoned a reputed construction agency to expedite work and get it completed by February 2025. —*PTI*

4 senior players led IPL retention discussions: Jayawardene

Mumbai Indians head coach Mahela Jayawardene has disclosed that the team's senior quartet - Rohit Sharma, Jasprit Bumrah, Hardik Pandya, and Suryakumar Yadav- was actively involved in discussions about captaincy and retentions for the IPL's 2025 season. The five-time champions have retained the quartet of Bumrah, Suryakumar, Pandya, and Rohit along with youngster Tilak Verma. "We had extensive discussions. These four senior guys led those discussions. What happened last season, as well as how we collectively move forward was crucial for us to align in that right direction," Jayawardene told Jio Cinema on Thursday."So coaching staff, owners, management, and these four guys the direction came from them, what needs to be done, how it needs to go about."MI has paid the top retention price of Rs 18 crore to pace spearhead Bumrah while Suryakumar and Pandya have been retained for an equal retention price of Rs 16.35 crore each.Jayawardene said Rohit (Rs 16.30 crore), who has retired from the format after leading India to the T20 World Cup in June, agreed to be the fourth retention.—*PTI*

Mahela Jayawardene